





## HOME NEWS

# Tory council plans to use rates on places in independent schools

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Conservatives in Greater Manchester believe they have found a loophole in the law under which the council they control could speed up to £10m a year on places at independent schools for bright children.

The Government took powers under the Education Act, 1976, to regulate arrangements made by local education authorities in the independent sector, but it has no power to control similar arrangements made by the non-educational authorities. They are the district councils, metropolitan county councils, such as Greater Manchester, and the inner London boroughs.

Under the local government Acts, local authorities without education responsibilities may spend up to 2 per cent of their rate income in the interests of the inhabitants of their areas. That has usually been taken to mean the arts, museums, theatres and the like.

In Greater Manchester, where a 2p rate would produce about £10m, the council has asked its officials to find out whether that money could be used to help to pay for children who were due to go to fee-paying independent and direct grant schools next September until Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, vetoed the plans.

So far the minister has refused applications from English local education authorities to take up to a total of \$59 places in independent schools on the ground that the children had been chosen for those places on the basis of their ability, and that the arrangements were therefore not consistent with the Government's policy for ending selection.

Mr J. A. MacCarron, deputy chairman of the Greater Manchester Council's policy committee, pointed out that the same legislation was used four years ago by the then Labour-controlled county council in order to allow the use of its funds to pay for some school milk after Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative education minister, had decided that local education authorities should no longer do so. Several other Labour-controlled authorities had followed suit.

Mr Dudley Fiske, president of the Society of Education Officers, said that if the use of the funding of independent school places, there was presumably no reason why it should not be used for discretionary awards for students or other matters usually carried out exclusively by education authorities.

Francophile than he. "But we understand nothing if we do not understand the economic situation of the country and the repulsion between an off-shore island nation and the political system of the adjacent continent."

He said that everyone knew the celebrated aphorism of Clausewitz, that war was the continuation of politics by other means, and added: "Few observe that the converse must also apply, namely that politics is the continuation of war by other means."

Pinnin's argument on the dispute over the devaluation of the "green pound" and the fisheries negotiations, Mr Powell said: "It is a little reminder that for the principal continental nations, notably Germany and France, the European Economic Community is indeed 'the continuation of war by other means'."

Mr Powell, for Downing South, told a meeting in London that he must not be misunderstood. Nobody was more

# Tavistocks finding Woburn a strain

By Robin Young

Lady Tavistock succeeded yesterday in attracting as much

press and broadcasting attention to Woburn Abbey as might reasonably be expected if a lass had escaped from the safari park and stalked the picture galleries.

"If we wanted every national newspaper, every broadcasting station and every television company to come to Woburn, do you think we could get them?" she asked at the end of what appeared to have been an exhausting day, "no way!" Woburn has not done so well for publicity since the Duke of Bedford retired from the estate in 1963, leaving it to the care of his son, Lord Tavistock. Therein lay the cause of the excitement.

Referring to the duke's premature departure in an interview given some months ago to the *New York Times*, Lady Tavistock suggested it was unfair for her family to have been saddled with responsibility for Woburn so soon. The British press swooped on the comment with avidity when the interview was published.

"The thing was very sad," Lady Tavistock, who has three sons, said. "Normally my husband would not have expected to inherit until the duke died, by which time he might have been 40 and my oldest son 40. By then they would have been able to enjoy family life. As it is, we have no chance to be together a lot."

"It is an enormous strain on the family and the children. I have a ring with about a hundred keys on it, because all the doors are locked. I have to take them with me wherever I go. It is like living in a museum. There are 42 antique shops, five restaurants, seven shops, a golf course, a 400-acre park."

Even Sunday evenings in summer bring no relief. "That is when we all have to get up, to pick up the litter," Lady Tavistock observed. "I never want to live here but I cannot just say 'I don't want to' and leave. I hold the fort during the week."

With the press clamouring at the portals of the ancestral home, Lady Tavistock telephoned her father-in-law to explain. The duke, who had been with publicity affairs, was apparently unperturbed.

"He said that I had already told him all this before, so it was no surprise. He also said, which was very nice, that one should never be worried about what the papers say, because the papers are not going to say anything about you and your family and your life."

Lord Tavistock, who is chairman of Cedar Investment Trust and on the board of one of the largest investment companies in the City, *Cluttons*, as well as being proprietor of Woburn, commented: "I never expected to have to run Woburn."

"It has meant that I see much less of my children and my wife than I would like. Privacy is a great deal. It is very far from being a bed of roses."

Nearly ten tons of rubbish that has accumulated at Southampton General Hospital during a pay dispute, which is continuing, is to be cleared today.

Mr Douglas Scott, the climber, has declined a nomination for the Golden Wreath of the Victoria Sporting Club. He was one of 12 sportsmen and women on the short list for the award, one of the highest international honours for valour in sport, in his presentation at a ceremony at Guildhall, London, on Wednesday.

He withdrew suddenly yesterday when he visited the BBC's Birmingham studios to be interviewed on the Pebble Mill programme about the award, which was understood to be £25,000.

Mr David Seymour, the interviewer, told viewers that Mr Scott had just discovered he would not get a cash award. Because of that, he said, he had refused the award, because it was a convention of mountaineers that they did not take honours for bravery.

Viewers were told that Mr Scott wanted the money to help to fund another British attempt

on the Ogre, the Himalayan peak on which he broke both his legs last July.

Mr Chris Bonington, the climber and friend of Mr Scott, said later: "It was my impression that Doug was going to get the award. One of the judges approached me in January and my impression from what he told me that the award was worth £25,000."

"Doug did not want the award in the first place. His feeling was the climbers and mountaineers should not accept awards. I thought it would be worth accepting it because the money could go straight to the Mount Everest Foundation, which gives grants for expeditions."

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# More than 10,000 dogs entered for the annual Crufts Show

By Philip Howard

Every top dog had its day yesterday; or, to be precise, its owners and breeders did.

More than ten thousand assorted pedigree dogs, the largest pack ever, entered the eighty-second Crufts Show, which is the last to be held at Olympia, London. Next year, it removes, dog and doggo, to the more spacious concrete and more frequent lamp posts of Earl's Court.

The dogs came from 142 different breeds, ranging from smooth-coated Chihuahuas to those shaggy dogs masquerading as overcoats called Pyrenean mountain dogs. The Japanese spitz, a small, white, price-reduced creature like an undernourished Samoyed, appeared at Crufts for the first time. The Hungarian pull, distinguished by its remarkable corded coat, had a class of its own for the first time.

The breeds with the largest entries were Afghan (285), Alsatians (274), and Labradors (259). Cocker spaniels and whippets have returned to the top 10 most popular breeds on show, together with a new entry to the charts, the old English sheepdog. They displaced boxers, poodles, and rough collies.

As usual the dogs submitted with melancholy dignity, leaving their owners cut and being dusted with baby powder in public and having their most private parts handled by complete strangers. Their demeanour as usual tapped the richest springs of English suburban fantasy, as Little Creek's Schooner Girl raised an infinitely patient eyebrow at

the joyfully named Fragrant Cloud of Karazoo.

The 59 dogs in the obedience championship almost brought tears to the eyes to see such devotion and rollicking dog nature in response to ridiculously repetitive drill-sergeant commands that would have made a drill squad of the Guards Brigade mutiny.

The humans were less dogified. There was strict security, with body searches, because of an outbreak of nipping and even cauding at dog shows. Commercial stalls sold canine accessories from Woffle Foods to Doggie Hubbard's Books, and poodles to cure everything from bad breath to moit.

Charles Cruft, who made his fortune selling "dog cakes", little realized what he was starting when he booked the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, in 1891 for this first show. The Kennel Club registers about 180,000 dogs a year, and issues export pedigrees for about ten thousand. Most go to France, the United States and Italy.

The club has about 500 members, exclusively male, though it has recently bowed to Bitches' Lib by founding a women's section. It says that it is being called in to assist and advise on the growing amount of anti-dog publicity.

Not the least of the virtues of man's best friend is that he does not organize human shows as a sort of vicarious Olympic Games. If he did, to judge from the vast and animated crowds yesterday, there would be scope for a great many classes showing every characteristic and conformation under the dog star.

Police were called in and Scotland Yard said they had searched Crufts. They described the dog as red with white markings, 23 inches tall and wearing a green nylon chain and collar.

All that indicates a serious communications gap. Management plans its hopes on inquiry with an independent chairman to stabilize industrial relations at the yard. But although the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions have broadly agreed, British Shipbuilders has yet to secure a promise from shop stewards of cooperation.

Union officials, including Mr John Chalmers, the boilermakers' general secretary, whose pleas last month for the senseless to be lifted went unheeded by his members, agree that the rivalry has been aggravated by the five months gap which exists between the two groups' traditional negotiating dates.

The outfitting lifted the ban when they received an award from the Central Arbitration

Committee. Their case had been strengthened because in 1973 the boilermakers had won an increase, before any policy came, so, while they were caught by the £6 curb.

The prompt response from the boilermakers was to put in a claim and renounce flexible working. Their refusal to reverse that decision lost the yard the contract for the other four ships.

There are 10 merchant ships in the Swan Hunter yards and five naval vessels, including the highest, a through-deck cruiser. Those will ensure that the clutter of steel and the din of the caulker's drill and chisel will continue to be heard in Wallend's Banksie streets for the time being. But the future is uncertain.

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# Canine aristocrats maintain their dignity even when being dusted with baby powder

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# Workers fear that union rivalry may close shipyard

From Donald Macintyre

Labour Reporter

Wallend-on-Tyne

Mr George Irving, a caulker, yesterday summed up the fatalistic mood which, like the snow, lay upon the yard since what looks to the outside world as the town's latest act of industrial self-mutilation.

"I have worked in the yards for 34 years and I have never seen anything as bad as this. I think that Swan's could close down if this goes on much longer."

Mr Irving, aged 53, is one of 3,500 members of the boilermakers' union who refused to let pay sanctions caused the loss of Swan Hunter's share of the £115m Polish deal secured by British Shipbuilders.

The notoriety which that act has brought to Tyne boiler-makers has been compounded by the news that the 1,152 workers who are being made redundant in the wake of the lost order will qualify for payments up to a maximum of £10,400 under a scheme announced this week by the Department of Industry.

There are union officials outside the boilermakers' union who believe that the prospect of the redundancy scheme encouraged the decision to end the flexibility agreement which the boilermakers had been working to get the yard to accept, and another for fitters, electricians, and joiners.

The boilermakers retort that as a skilled tradesman working on hulls, his conditions are far worse and adds with contempt: "I go in and get the money, and then they follow behind asking for more. That is not negotiation."

Another caulker admitted: "It is like hairs; one gets 10 hoh" and then all the others wait." He added immediately: "It has always been this way. The boilermakers have always been the top men."

British Shipbuilders' originally allocated seven ships of the Polish order to Swan Hunter. The conditions imposed on all the involvements were that formal production and existing flexibility agreements must be preserved.

The boilermakers agreed but the outfitters refused to lift an overtime ban in support of a partly claim that had been simmering for two years.

Three of the ships were then reallocated.

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# Prize boxer bitch vanishes at Olympia

A prize boxer bitch had disappeared from her stand at Crufts

London. Miss Sheila Carr

wright, from Worplesdon, Surrey, her owner, said last night that Tyeaght Bottom Up had almost certainly been stolen.

She left the dog, which she valued at about £200, with five of her other dogs for 14 minutes. When she came back the lead was unclipped and there was no sign of the dog which is 13 months old and the winner of several championship prizes.

Police were called in and Scotland Yard said they had searched Crufts. They described the dog as red with white markings, 23 inches tall and wearing a green nylon chain and collar.

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### Year-long inquiry on mental hospital may cost £500,000

Ferriman has been the subject of a year-long inquiry which ended yesterday. The inquiry, which had cost £500,000, was held by the Health Service Commission. It was the first time that a senior official of the Health Service has been investigated in this way. The inquiry was held by a panel of three people, including a senior judge. The panel found that there had been a serious failure of the Health Service in the way it had handled the case of Ferriman. The panel also found that the Health Service had been negligent in the way it had handled the case of Ferriman. The panel recommended that the Health Service should take steps to prevent such a failure from happening again.

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### Outlook for D'Oyly Carte Opera brighter

By Ian Bradley

The future of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which has performed Gilbert and Sullivan's operas throughout Britain for more than a century, now looks reasonably secure.

The Arts Council hopes soon to make a recommendation that the company should receive a grant and discussions are in progress with possible commercial sponsors.

The company has feared that it might have to disband after completing its present London season, which ends next week, and an American tour in the spring. It has been losing about £100,000 a year and had to cancel a centenary production of *The Sorcerer* planned for last year.

Mr Frederick Lloyd, the company's general manager, said that because of the promised financial assistance it had planned a full touring programme for 1978 and would be back in London at the end of the year.

D'Oyly Carte more than lives up to the image of the wandering minstrel in *The Mikado*. It tours for more than nine months of the year, more than any other British opera company. It has also trained many singers who are now soloists at Covent Garden or the English National Opera, including Valerie Masterson, Anna Hoad and Thomas Lawlor. Yet it has never received a grant from the Arts Council.

The company does not lose all its fingers to higher places, however. John Reed is in his twenty-eighth year of playing the First Lord of the Admiralty in *HMS Pinafore* and the Lord High Executioner in *The Mikado*. Kenneth Sandford joined in 1957 to sing the principal baritone roles.

The past week has been a particularly busy one for the D'Oyly Carte principals and chorus. By tonight they will have given six evening and two matinee performances at Sadler's Wells. They have also spent two days in Decca's studios recording *The Zoo*, a rarely heard opera with music by Sullivan and words by B. C. Stephenson, which was first performed in 1875.

In view of the controversy over the geitification of a certain London borough, *The Zoo* should have a strong contemporary appeal. It concerns a Duke of Islington who, disguised as a common working man, finds the virtues for which he is seeking in the person of a highly principled young woman in charge of the refreshment stall at a zoo.

In the course of pursuing his passion, the duke consumes large quantities of food and drink, and is eventually found by his wife. He is then taken to a hospital where he is treated for his condition. The duke is then taken to a hospital where he is treated for his condition. The duke is then taken to a hospital where he is treated for his condition.

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Jane Metcalfe, as Eliza, and Kenneth Sandford, as the Duke of Islington.

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### Pensioners lose claim on 'underpaid' benefits

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Pensioners yesterday lost their claim that the Government is underpaying them when a reserved judgment in the Court of Appeal went against them. The judgment said that the Government has no obligation to ensure that forecasts of inflation used to raise pensions and other benefits prove to be correct.

Two pensioners, supported by the Elderly Action Group, had challenged as unlawful the new method adopted by the Government in 1976 for calculating inflation before raising social security benefits. The method involved using a forecast of inflation for the year ahead, based on past inflation and other factors.

The pensioners argued that the Government was underpaying them because the forecasts of inflation were too low. They claimed that the Government was using a method that was unfair and that it was not taking into account the actual inflation that had occurred.

The Court of Appeal, however, found in favor of the Government. It said that the Government was not under any obligation to ensure that its forecasts of inflation were correct. It said that the Government was using a method that was fair and that it was taking into account the actual inflation that had occurred.

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is based partly on forecasts of future inflation.

Because the Government is legally obliged to raise pensions in line with the better of prices or wages, a ruling against them would have resulted in a huge recalculation of almost all benefits. They would have had to raise all benefits from November, 1976, and then recalculate the increases paid in November, 1977, as well.

Mr Nicholas Warren, of the Child Poverty Action Group, said that the pensioners and the elderly action group were disappointed at the result because it meant the Government had escaped compensating pensioners for the worst months of inflation in 1976. He said that the Government would have taken swift steps to legalize their action had the judgment gone the other way.

### Man who was given alarm clock now has a job

Anthony Murphy, to whom

social security officials gave an alarm clock to wake him in the mornings, has got a job, magistrates at Newbury, Berkshire, were told yesterday. He is working at night.

In two years Mr Murphy, aged 21, of Goswell Row, Newbury, hardly ever worked, the magistrates were told. During that time he drew £2,898 in social security benefits.

In an effort to get him to work, the Department of Health and Social Security took him to court last November and accused him of failing to maintain himself, his wife and two children, aged four and two.

Mr Basil Corcoran, for the prosecution, said that Mr Murphy's main difficulty was getting up in time for work. To help him, the department

had decided to buy him an alarm clock. Sentence on Mr Murphy was deferred.

Mr Corcoran said yesterday that the scheme had been a success. With the help of the clock Mr Murphy had got up in time to attend a government reemployment centre every day, and now had a job in the bottle washing plant of a factory.

Mr Richard James, the defence, said: "Since he has had the alarm clock his time-keeping has been particularly good. He is now settled in employment, earning £39 a week, and is a taxpayer and a useful member of society."

Giving Mr Murphy a conditional discharge for two years, Mr James Freeman, the chairman, said: "The court is very pleased that you have responded to the chance which was given to you."

### £900,000 of cocaine is seized

Cocaine valued at about

£900,000 and intended for the black market in Britain has been discovered by customs investigators in the past week. It was disclosed yesterday. A consignment valued at £100,000 was found at Gatwick airport, Surrey.

Earlier, three kilograms, valued at £400,000, was seized at Edinburgh airport, and after a tip-off by British customs three more kilograms intended for Britain were seized by the police in an hotel in Madrid. At Gatwick one kilogram of cocaine was found in plastic bags wrapped round the legs of a passenger wearing cowboy boots.

The passenger arrived at Gatwick on a flight from Lima, Peru, via Bogota.

Three New Zealanders were being questioned yesterday about the latest find.

### 'Threats' to men over schoolgirls

From Our Correspondent

Magistrates at Rotherham, South Yorkshire, were told yesterday that six men accused of offences against 14 schoolgirls had been threatened by people in the villages where they live.

Mr Michael Rose, for the prosecution, said: "I would ask you to make it clear to the public that lynch law does not obtain in South Yorkshire. These persons who take matters into their own hands are likely to find themselves in trouble with the police."

Mr Matthew Norcliffe, presiding, said: "The bench want to make it clear that any threats or any intimidation regarding these defendants will be dealt with in due course."

The six men, who were all committed on bail for trial at Sheffield Crown Court, together face 42 charges of unlawful sexual intercourse and indecency with the girls, aged between 12 and 15. The offences are alleged to have taken place between January 1, 1975, and January 19 last.

Neil Fox, aged 29, of Flaxwell Lane, Sunningdale, Alderham, faces two charges of unlawful sexual intercourse and four of indecent assault. Frederick Turner, aged 31, of East Street, Sunningdale, faces nine charges of indecent assault.

Victor Howe, aged 67, of Manor Farm, Sunningdale, near Rotherham, faces six charges of indecent assault and one of inciting gross indecency with a girl under 16. He is charged with two of indecent assault and two of indecent intercourse.

Donald Monney, aged 54, of Central Avenue, Sunningdale, is charged with two of indecent assault and two of indecent intercourse. Rufus Howe, aged 68, of Manor Farm, Sunningdale, faces two charges of indecent assault and one of indecent intercourse.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Middle East trade in heroin is growing

By Stewart Tendler  
Crime Reporter

Up to a quarter of all the heroin recovered in Europe in police seizures is thought to be originating in the Middle East. Police forces are worried that the region could take over from the "Golden Triangle" as the main supplier to the illicit market.

A few weeks ago in Paris the commanders of European drug squads were told by Interpol officials that big heroin seizures in 1977 produced 510 kilograms and this represented a drop of 20 per cent on the previous year. But they gave a warning against any complacency, saying new dangers were rising in countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

Interpol officials believe that operations against the "Golden Triangle" have reduced the amount of heroin reaching Europe, but the Middle East could step into any vacuum in the black market.

They believe there is already evidence that Turkey is being used as a conduit and a number of laboratories for converting opium to heroin have been discovered in Iran.

The movement of heroin into Europe is far easier than from the Far East because drug supplies can be moved overland using migrant workers travelling to countries like West Germany and Italy.

The specific areas of opium poppy cultivation have not been identified, but the suspicion is that the tribal areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan are the most likely culprits. There is already intelligence to suggest that cultivation has increased this year in parts of Afghanistan and it is thought more is being grown there than anywhere else.

As *The Times* reported last year, there are fears that some of the heroin has already reached Britain and for some time Interpol has urged European police forces to be on the alert.

If the total amount of heroin is down, seizures of cannabis have continued to rise. The Interpol figures for 1977 show that it has increased by 100 per cent in comparison with 1976 to reach 70 tonnes. There seems to be every indication that the end of hostilities in Lebanon has helped to swell the haul since nearly all of the 13 largest seizures came from that country.

Cocaine seizures have also risen, but less dramatically than cannabis, to produce a total of nearly 55 kilograms.

## From 'good sense' to 'women's cause' fringe groups blur the political spectrum

## Ecologists try to raise their voice

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 10

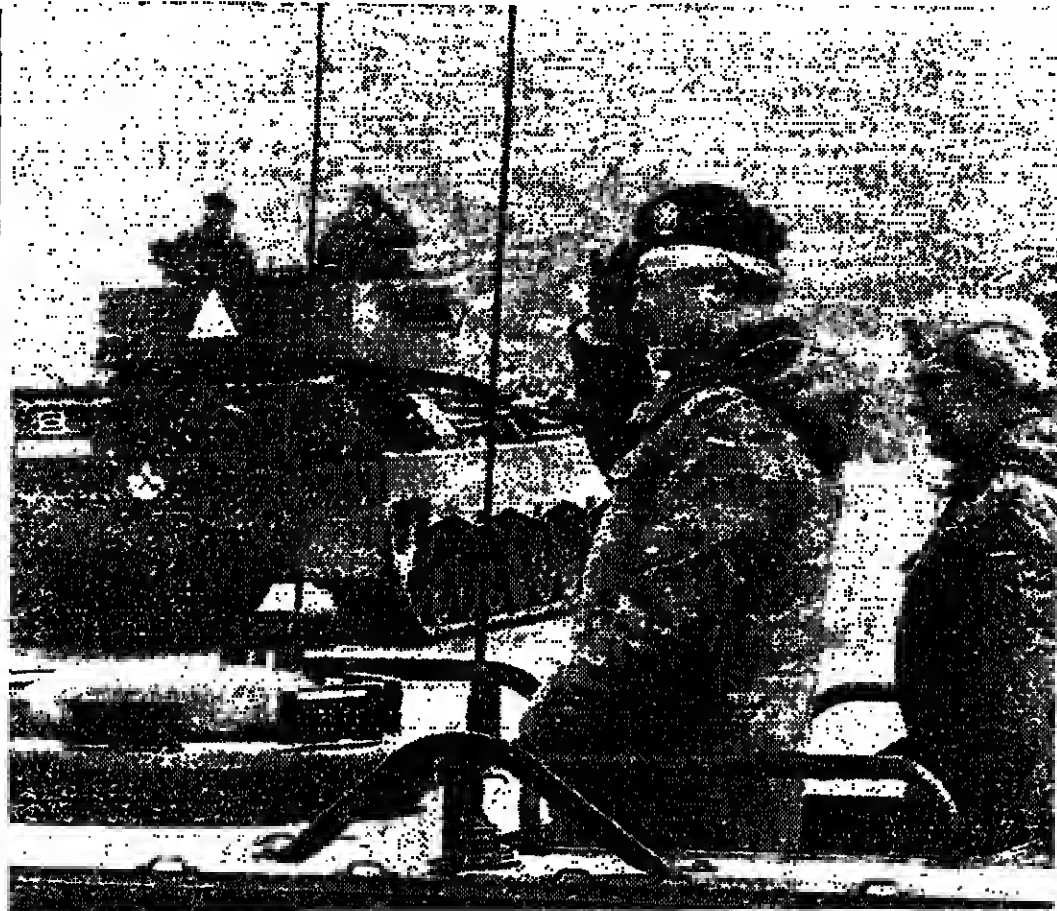
According to *Quid*, the French equivalent of *Who's Who*, there are 43 political parties plus another 38 politically active groups in the country. They range from homosexuals to royalists and from ecologists to women's liberationists. There are fascist parties and a particularly rich and varied range of left, extreme left and ultra-left groups. Many, if not all of them, will be putting up candidates in the election with little hope of winning the 12.5 per cent share of the votes in the first round on March 12 to contest the second round on March 19.

By no means all of them are doomed to be unrepresented in the National Assembly by reason of lack of support, however. On the left the Mouvement des Radicaux de Gauche (MRC) has joined the Union of the Left with the Socialists and Communists; as a reward the Socialists are standing aside to allow a few of their candidates to stand a good chance of winning a safe seat.

They had 13 members in the National Assembly at the dissolution. They have a left-wing intellectual appeal which the Socialists will recruit part of the middle class vote to their cause.

Further to the left, and not part of the union, is the Parti Socialiste Unifié (PSU) which had one member in the last Assembly. The Communists have withdrawn two of their candidates in favour of the PSU. They have done the same for two left-wing Gaullists (Union des Gaullistes de Progrès), a new grouping formed last year by Gaullists who feel that their party has moved too far to the right.

On the extreme left revolutionary fringe can be found such parties as the Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire and the



Herr Georg Leber, the outgoing West German Defence Minister, taking the salute at a farewell parade of tanks in Wetzlar yesterday. Herr Leber resigned over a spy scandal.

## Two bank robbers die in fight

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 10

One bank robber was shot and killed and another fatally wounded when police moved in quickly to stop a raid on a bank in Boulogne-sur-Seine, near Paris today. In their attempt to escape the robbers seriously injured one policeman whom they hit with their car. They took then two women and a child hostage in a flat and tried to negotiate their way to freedom.

A bank employee had managed to call the police while the three masked robbers were still in the bank. Just as they were running out into a waiting car the police arrived and shots were fired. One of the robbers got out to try to stop a car going in the opposite direction and was shot and killed. The other two tried to burst through the police cordon in their car, seriously injuring the policeman.

They abandoned the car and ran into a block of flats, where they burst into a fourth-floor apartment and took the hostages.

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## The French Elections

Lutte Ouvrière. It is unlikely that the combined vote for these 250 candidates will be more than 1 per cent of the vote in the first round.

On the centre and right of the political spectrum there are again a number of parties which can expect to be represented despite their low national support. These are notably the members of the newly formed Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF), made up of non-Gaullist parties within the government coalition.

They include the Centre des Démocrates Sociaux (CDS), which had 25 members in the last Assembly, the Centre National des Indépendants et Paysans (CNIP), which was unrepresented in the Assembly although it has 16 members in the Senate, and the Parti Radical-Socialiste (PRS), which had four deputies on dissolution.

As a union these parties together with the Republican Party are putting up a list of 405 joint candidates who will try to win seats in the Assembly. The Communists have withdrawn two of their candidates in favour of the PSU. They have done the same for two left-wing Gaullists (Union des Gaullistes de Progrès), a new grouping formed last year by Gaullists who feel that their party has moved too far to the right.

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## Kreisky-Brezhnev talk was in private

From Sue Masterman

Vienna, Feb 10

An 80-minute private talk with President Brezhnev marked the climax of Dr Bruno Kreisky's official visit to Moscow this week. Both Mr Brezhnev and Mr Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, accepted invitations from the Austrian Chancellor to visit Austria at a future date.

Reporters who accompanied Dr Kreisky to the Brezhnev meeting reported that the Soviet President looked relaxed and remarkably well, considering reports on his health.

Dr Kreisky went to Moscow to discuss ways in which the growing trade deficit between Austria and the Soviet Union could be balanced. Among the projects discussed was Austria's possible participation in the building of a second Trans-Siberian railway.

On his return to Austria the Chancellor said that at his meeting with President Sadat he would be able to pass on Moscow's peace mission. What that opinion was he would not say, but he added: "I will not be telling him much news."

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## OVERSEAS

## Russia assures Washington that advancing Ethiopian forces will not cross Somali frontier

from Patrick Brogan

Washington, Feb 10

Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, said this morning that he had received assurances from the Soviet Union that Ethiopian forces would not cross the frontier into Somalia if their present counter-offensive gets that far. Mr Vance said the United States would not modify its policy of refusing to supply arms to either side, but that the policy might have to be reconsidered if Ethiopia invaded Somalia.

There should be negotiations between Ethiopia and Somalia and a ceasefire, he continued. Somalia should withdraw from the territory it occupied in the Ogaden and Soviet and Cuban forces should be withdrawn from Ethiopia.

"We believe it is fundamental," he said, "that there be a recognition and a respect by the parties of internationally recognized borders."

He went on to say: "We will continue our present course of action with respect to not supplying arms to either side but if there were a cross-

ing of borders, it would present a different situation and we would have to consider it then."

The Secretary said that his best estimate of Soviet and Cuban involvement was that there were between 800 and 1,000 Soviet military advisers in Ethiopia and about 3,000 Cubans, of whom 2,000 were involved in combat. They had been flying aircraft for the Ethiopians and were now engaged in ground fighting.

Mr Vance also said Cuban reinforcements were being sent to Ethiopia, both from Cuba itself and from Angola.

Mr Vance was giving his regular monthly press conference and was asked many questions about the Middle East. He limited his replies to summarizing the statement issued on President Sadat's departure on Wednesday, but took the opportunity to emphasize again the importance of solving the settlements question.

The problems involved are first the Israeli settlements and the related questions of

the West Bank and Gaza and secondly the Palestinian question generally. He said he would meet Mr Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, here on February 16.

The settlements in Sinai, he said, were contrary to international law and should never have been set up. On the second problem, he repeated the American position that there should be a transitional period.

"We believe that there should be a homeland for the Palestinians that should be linked with Jordan. We have suggested to the parties for their consideration the possibility of an interim arrangement covering a period of years."

As for Israel's security, and the role security considerations play in Israel's desire to keep the Sinai settlements, Mr Vance said that he believed security matters could be taken care of within the framework of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and within the framework of a withdrawal from occupied territories.

## Leukaemia kills A-test ex-soldier

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Feb 10

A former sergeant in the United States Army, who was sent to the "ground" test site in Nevada in 1957, died after a nuclear test, died on Wednesday of leukaemia. He was 43.

He was one of the people involved in nuclear tests who had subsequently contracted leukaemia or other cancers, and who blamed the test. On the day he died, the Pentagon issued a toll-free telephone number which may be used by anyone who was involved in the tests, so that they may be identified and examined.

The former soldier, Mr Paul Cooper, said that he and other soldiers were marched to within 200 yards of the point of the blast within minutes of it. The "Veterans" Administration had been paying him a gratuity pension of \$820 (\$410) and he died in a veterans' hospital.

The Administration has not admitted the connection between Mr Cooper's leukaemia and the test, but the matter is now being fully debated. If the connection is admitted, nobody can tell how many cases might turn up.

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## Israel pleased with US report on human rights

From Michael Knipe

Jerusalem, Feb 10

The Israeli Government expressed satisfaction today with what it called a mostly favourable assessment on human rights in Israel made by the United States Government.

The assessment, issued in Washington yesterday, was slightly more critical of Israeli conduct in the occupied territories. However, an Israeli Government spokesman said that Israel had passed "with flying colours" compared to most other countries covered in the report.

He said that while his Government had a number of reservations and corrections to make, the report was viewed as the whole as being balanced one in which Israel emerged in a good light.

The report praises Israel as a fully fledged parliamentary democracy in which freedom and rights are generally respected and discrimination and violation of the rights is rare.

Dealing with the occupied territories, the report refers to the allegations of torture published by *The Sunday Times* last July.

It says that while there were "documented reports" of physical and psychological pressure during interrogations and instances of brutality by individuals could not be ruled out, there was no evidence in support of allegations that Israel followed a consistent practice or policy of using torture during interrogations.

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## Saturday Review

## A family man

V. S. Pritchett

Late in the afternoon, when she had given him up and had even changed out of her pink dress into her smock and jeans and was working once more at her bench, the door bell rang. William had come after all. It was in the nature of their love affair that his visits were fitful: he had a wife and children. To show that she understood the situation, even found the curious satisfaction of reverie in his absences that lately had lasted several weeks, Berenice dawdled yawning to the door. As she slipped off the chain, she called back in to the empty flat: "It's all right, father. I'll answer it."

William had told her to do this because she was a woman living on her own: the call would show strangers that there was a man there to defend her. Berenice's voice was mocking, for she thought his idea possessive and ridiculous; not only that, she had been brought up by Quakers and thought it wrong to tell or act a lie. Sometimes, when she opened the door to him, she would say: "Well! Mr Cork," to remind him he was a married man. He had the kind of shadowed handsomeness that easily gleams with guilt and for her this gave their affair its piquancy.

But now—when she opened the door—no William and its irony, died on her mouth. A very large woman, taller than herself, filled the doorway from top to bottom, an enormous blob of pink jersey and green skirt, the jersey low and loose at the neck, a face and body inflated to the point of speechlessness. She even seemed to be asleep with her large blue eyes open.

"Yes?" said Berenice. The woman woke up and looked unbelievably at Berenice's feet which were bare for she liked to go about barefoot at home, and said:

"Is this Miss Foster's place?" Berenice was offended by the word "place". "This is Miss Foster's residence. I am she."

"Ah," said the woman, babyish no longer but sugary. "I was given your address at the College. You teach at the College I believe? I've come about the repair."

"A repair? I make jewelry," said Berenice. "I do not do repairs."

"They told me at the College you were repairing my husband's flute. I am Mrs Cork."

Berenice's heart stopped. Her wrist went weak and her head drooped on the door handle, and a spurt of icy air shot up her body to her face and then turning to flaming heat as it shot back again. Her head suddenly filled with clattering voices, saying: Oh, God. How frightful. William, you didn't tell her? Now what are you, you, you going to do. And the word "Do" clattered on in her head.

"Cork?" said Berenice. "Florence Cork," said the woman firmly, all sleepy sweetness gone.

"Oh yes. I am sorry. Mrs Cork. Of course, yes. Oh do come in. I'm so sorry. We haven't met, how very nice to meet you. William's Mr Cork's flute! His flute. Yes, I remember. How do you do? How is he? He hasn't been to the College for months. Have you seen him lately—how silly, of course you have. Did you have a lovely holiday? Did the children enjoy it? I would have posted it only I didn't know your address. Come in, please, come in."

"In here?" said Mrs Cork and marched into the front room where Berenice worked. Here, in the direct glare of Berenice's working lamp, Florence Cork looked even larger and even pregnant. She seemed to occupy the whole of the room as she stood in it, memorizing everything—the bench, the pots of paint brushes, the large designs pinned to the wall, the rolls of paper, the sofa covered with papers and letters and sewing, the pink dress which Berenice had thrown over a chair. She seemed to be consuming it all, drinking all the air.

"But here, in the disorder of which she was very vain, which indeed fascinated her, and represented her talent, her independence, a girl's right to a life of her own and, above all, being barefooted, helped Berenice recover her breath."

"It is such a pleasure to meet you. Mr Cork has often spoken of you to us at the College. We're quite a family there. Please sit. I'll move the dress. It was mending it."

But Mrs Cork did not sit down. She gave a sudden lurch towards the bench and seeing her husband's flute there propped against the wall, she



Illustration by Angela Barrett

grabbed it and swung it above her head, as if it were a weapon.

"Yes," said Berenice, who was thinking: "Oh, dear, the woman's drunk." "I was working on it only this morning. I had never seen a flute like that before. Such a beautiful silver scroll. I gather it's very old, a German oboe, a presentation piece given to Mr Cork's father. I believe he played in a famous orchestra—where was it?—Bayreuth or Berlin? You never see a scroll like that in England, not a delicate silver scroll like that. It seems to have been dropped somewhere or have had a blow. Mr Cork told me he had played it in an orchestra himself once, Covent Garden or somewhere."

"She watched Mrs. Cork flourish the flute in the air. 'A blow,' cried Mrs Cork now in a rich meaty voice. 'I say it did. I threw it at him.' And then she lowered her arm and stood swaying on her legs as she confronted Berenice, and said:

"Where is he?" "Who?" said Berenice in a fright. "My husband!" Mrs Cork shouted. "Don't try and soft soap me with all that twaddle. Playing in an orchestra! Is that what he has been stuffing you up with. I know what you and he are up to. He comes every Thursday. He's been here since, half past two. I know. I have had this place watched."

"She swung round to the closed door of Berenice's bedroom. "What's in there?" Mrs Cork shouted and advanced to it.

"Mrs Cork," said Berenice as calmly as she could. "Please stop shouting. I know nothing about your husband. I don't know what you are talking about."

And she placed herself before the door of the room. "Please stop shouting. That is my father's room." And, excited by Mrs Cork's accusation, she said:

"He is a very old man and he is not well. He is asleep in there."

"In there?" said Mrs Cork. "Yes, in there."

"And what about the other rooms? Who lives upstairs?"

"There are no other rooms," said Berenice. "I live here, with my father. Upstairs? Some new people have moved in."

Berenice was astonished by these words of her's. For she was a truthful young woman and was startled, even though it excited her, by a lie so vast. It seemed to glitter in the air as she spoke it.

Mrs Cork was checked. She flopped down on the chair on which Berenice had put her dress. "My dress, if you please," said Berenice and pulled it away.

"You don't do it here," said Mrs Cork, quivering and with tears in her eyes. "You do it somewhere else."

"I don't know anything about your husband. I only see him at the College like the other teachers. I don't know anything about him. If you will give me the flute, I will pack it up for you and I must ask you to go."

"You can't deceive me. I know everything. You think because you are young you can do what you like," Mrs Cork muttered to herself and began rummaging in her handbag.

For Berenice one of the attractions of William was that their meetings were erratic. The affair was like a game: she liked surprise above all. In the intervals when he was not there, the game continued for her. She liked imagining what he and his family were doing. She saw them all glued together as if in some enduring and absurd photograph, perhaps sitting in the suburban garden, or standing beside a motor car, always in the sun, but William himself, dark faced and husky in his gravity, a step or two back from them.

"Is your wife beautiful?" she asked him once when they were in bed. William in his slow, serious way took a long time to answer. He said at last: "Very beautiful."

This had made Berenice feel exceedingly beautiful herself. She saw his wife as a raven-haired, dark-eyed woman and longed to meet her. The more she imagined her, the more she felt for her, the more she saw eye to eye with her in the pleasant busy middle ground of womanish feelings and moods,

for as a woman living alone she felt a firm loyalty to her sex. During this last summer when the family were on holiday she had seen them glued together again as they sat with dozens of other families in the aeroplane that was taking them abroad, so that it seemed to her that the London sky was rumbling day after day, night after night, with matrimony 30,000 feet above the city, the countryside, the sea and its beaches where she imagined the legs of their children running across the sand. William flushed with his responsibilities, his wife turning over to brown her back in the sun. Berenice was often but, and about with her many friends, most of whom were married. She loved the look of harassed contentment, even the tired faces of the husbands, the alert looks of their spirited wives.

Amore the married she felt her singularity. She listened to their endearments and to their hickories. She played with their children who ran at once to her. She could not hear the young men who approached her, talking about themselves all the time, flashing with the slapdash egotism of young men trying to bring her peculiarity to an end. Among families she felt herself to be strange and necessary—a necessary secret. When William had said his wife was beautiful, she felt so beautiful herself that her bones seemed to turn to water.

But now the real Florence sat rummaging in her bag before her, this balloon-like giant, first hushy and then shouting accusations, the dreamed of Florence vanished. This real Florence seemed unreal and incredible. And William himself changed. His good looks began to look commonplace and shady; his seriousness became furtive, his praise of her calculating. He was shorter than his wife, his face now looked hang-dog and she saw him dragging his feet as he obediently followed her. She resisted that this woman had made her tell a lie, strangely intoxicating though it was to do so, and had made her feel as ugly as she was. For she must be, if Florence was what he called, beautiful.

And not only ugly, but pathetic and without dignity.

Berenice watched her warily as the woman took a letter from her handbag. "Then what is this necklace?" she said, blowing her self out again.

"What necklace is this?" said Berenice. "Read it. You wrote it."

Berenice smiled with astonishment: she knew she needed no locket to defend herself. She prided herself on fastidiousness: she had never in her life written a letter to a lover—it would be like giving something of herself away, it would be almost an indecency. She certainly felt it to be very wrong to read anyone else's letter, as Mrs Cork pushed the letter at her. Berenice took it in two fingers, glanced and turned it over to see the name of the writer.

"This is not my writing," she said. The hand was drawn herself; her own was scratchy and small. "Who is Bunney? Who is Rosie?"

Mrs Cork snatched the letter and read in a booming voice that made the words ridiculous. "I am longing for the ock-lace. Tell that girl to hurry up. Do bring it next time. And, darling, don't forget the flute!!! Rosie. What do you mean 'who is Bunney'?" Mrs Cork said. "You know very well. Bunney is my husband."

Berenice turned away and pointed to a small poster that was pinned to the wall. It contained a photograph of a ock-lace and three brooches she had shown at an exhibition in a very fashionable shop known for selling modern jewelry. At the bottom of the poster, elegantly printed, were the words:

Created by Berenice. Berenice read the words aloud, reciting them as if they were a line from a poem: "My name is Berenice," she said.

It was strange to her speaking the truth. And it suddenly seemed to her, as she recited the words, that really William had never been her lover, and had never played his silly flute there, that indeed he was the most boring man at the College and that a chasm separated

her from this woman, made so ugly by jealousy. Mrs Cork was still swelling with disbelief, but as she studied the poster, despair settled on her face.

"I found it in his pocket," she said helplessly. "We all make mistakes, Mrs Cork," Berenice said coldly across the chasm. And then, to her generous in victory, she said: "Let me see the letter again."

Mrs Cork gave her the letter and Berenice read it and at the word "flute" a doubt came into her head. Her hand began to tremble and quickly she gave the letter back.

"Win gave you my address—I mean at the College?" Berenice accused. "There is a rule that no addresses are given. Or telephone numbers." "The girl," said Mrs Cork, defying herself.

"Which girl? At Enquiries?" "She fetched someone." "Who was it?" said Berenice.

"I don't know. It began with a W, I think," said Mrs Cork. "Wheeler?" said Berenice. "There is a W Wheeler."

"No it wasn't a man. It was a young woman. With a W—Glowitz."

"No," said Mrs Cork out of her muddle, now afraid of Berenice. "Glowitz was the name."

"Glowitz," said Berenice, unbelieving. "Rosie Glowitz. She's not young."

"I didn't notice," said Mrs Cork. "Is her name Rosie?" Berenice sat down. She felt giddy and cold. The chasm between herself and Mrs Cork closed up.

"Yes," said Berenice and sat on the sofa, pushing letters and papers away from herself. She felt sick.

"Did you show her the letter?" she said. "No," said Mrs Cork looking masterful again for a moment. "She told me you were repairing the flute."

"Please go," Berenice wanted to say but she could not get her breath to say it. "You have been deceived. You are accusing the wrong person. I thought your husband's name

was William. He never called himself Bunney. We all call him William at the College. Rosie Glowitz wrote this letter." But that sentence: "Bring the flute" was too much—she was suddenly on the side of this angry woman, she wished she could shout and break out into rage. She wanted to grab the flute that lay on Mrs Cork's lap and throw it at the wall and smash it.

"I apologize, Miss Foster," said Mrs Cork in a surly voice. The glister of tears in her eyes, the dampness on her face, dried. "I believe you. I have been worried out of my mind—you will understand."

Berenice's beauty had drained away. The behaviour of her one or two lovers had always seemed self-satisfied to her, but William, the most unlikely one, was the oddest. He would not stay in bed and gossip but he was soon out staring at the garden, looking older as if he were travelling back into his life: then, hardly saying anything, he dressed, turning to stare at the garden again as his head came out of his shirt or he put a leg into his trousers, in a manner that made her think he had completely forgotten her. Then he would go into her front room, bring back the flute and go out to the garden seat and play it. She had done a cruel caricature of him once because he looked so comical, his long lip drawn down at the mouth, piece, his eyes lowered as the thin high notes, so sad and lascivious, seemed to curl away like wisps of smoke into the trees. Sometimes she laughed, sometimes she smiled, sometimes she was touched, sometimes angry, and he wandered. One proud satisfaction was that the people upstairs had complained.

She was tempted, now that she and this clumsy woman were at one, to say to her: "Are't men, extraordinary. Is this what he does at home, does he rush out to your garden, bold as brass, to play that silly thing?"

And then she would be scornful. "To think of him going round to Rosie Glowitz's and half the gardens of London doing this!" But she could not say this, of course. And so she looked at poor Mrs Cork with triumphant

sympathy. She longed to break Rosie Glowitz's neck and to think of some transcendent appealing lie which would make Mrs Cork happy again, but the clumsy woman went on making everything worse by asking to be forgiven. She said: "I am truly sorry," and "When I saw your work in the shop I wanted to meet you. That is really why I came. My husband has often spoken of it."

Well, at least, Berenice thought, she can tell a lie too. Suppose I gave her everything I've got, she thought. Anything to get her to go. Berenice looked at the drawer of her bench which was filled with beads and pieces of polished stone and crystal. She felt like getting handfuls of it and pouring it all on Mrs Cork's lap.

"Do you work only in silver?" said Mrs Cork, dabbing her eyes. "I am," said Berenice, "settling on something new."

And even as she said it, because of Mrs Cork's overwhelming presence, the great appealing lie came out of her, before she could stop herself. "At present," she said, "we all got together at the College. A present for Rosie Glowitz. She's setting married again. I expect that is what the letter is about. Mr Cork arranged it. He is very kind and thoughtful."

She heard herself say this with wonder. Her other lies had glittered but this one had the beauty of a newly discovered truth.

"You mean Bunney's collecting the money?" said Mrs Cork. "Yes," said Berenice. A great laugh came out of Florence Cork.

"The big spender," she laughed. "Collecting other people's money... He hasn't spent a penny on us for 30 years. And you're all giving this to that woman I talked to who has been married twice? Two wedding presents?"

Mrs Cork sighed. "You fools. Some women get away with it. I know how," said Mrs Cork still laughing. "But not with my 'Bunney', she said proudly and as if with alarming meaning. "He doesn't say much. He's deep is my 'Bunney'!"

"Would you like a cup of tea?" said Berenice politely, hoping she would say no and go. "I think I will," Mrs Cork said comfortably. "I'm so glad I came to see you." "And," she added, glancing at the closed door, what about your father? I expect he could do with a cup."

Mrs Cork now seemed wide awake and it was Berenice who felt dazed, drunkish, and sleepy. "I'll go and see," she said. "In the kitchen she recovered and came back trying to laugh, saying:

"He must have gone for his little walk. He must have heard us talking. He always slips out for his little walk in the afternoon, on the quiet."

"You have to keep an eye on them at that age," said Mrs Cork. They sat talking and Mrs Cork said: "Fancy Mrs Glowitz getting married again. And then absently, 'I cannot understand why she says 'Bring the flute'."

"Well," said Berenice agreeably, "he played it at the College."

"Yes," said Mrs Cork. "But at a wedding, it's a bit pushy. You wouldn't think it of my Bunney, but he is pushing."

They drank their tea and then Mrs Cork left. Berenice felt an enormous kiss on her face and Mrs Cork said: "Don't be jealous of Mrs Glowitz, dear. You'll get your turn," and she went.

Berenice put the chain on the door and went to her bedroom and lay on the bed.

How awful married people are, she thought. So public, spreading over everyone and everything, always lying in themselves and forcing you to lie to them. She got up and looked bitterly at the empty chair under the tree in the garden and then she laughed at it and went off to have a bath as to wash the horrible lie off her body. Afterwards, she rang up a couple. Mrs Brewster said: "I wish she wouldn't swoosh her hair around like that. She'd look better if she put it up."

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## Drink Finesse

Those who have kept to known and traditional wines during the mid-winter season probably feel inclined to offer something less familiar for spring parties. So here are both novelties and wines that, even if they come within categories already known, are rather special.

Many people are already planning spring weddings. Whether you serve Champagne or any sparkling wine for this kind of celebration, it is fair to calculate a minimum of half a bottle per head consumption—rather more if guests are to drink throughout a sit-down meal. Such an occasion requires a wine dry enough to accompany buffet fare—which often includes foods that are unknown, creamy, involve pastry or rice and quite a lot of bread.

The wine should also be sufficiently fruity to appeal to such guests as find anything bone dry to be too sharp, even acidic, to please. Catalan sparklers, such as the range made by Codorniu and Freixas, have long since been recommended with success: the Penedes area, behind Barcelona, makes first-rate sparkling wines by the Champagne method.

One wine that may be new to many is the range of the estate of the Marques de Monistrol: the brut, extra seco, and semi-seco (slightly sweet) as well as the rosado, are all available in unboxed cases into from Iberia Wines Ltd, 12, Henry Street, Liverpool, for £24.40—the charge in cluding delivery in the United Kingdom mainland. These wines have true finesse: the tiny bubbles, rising fast, and continuing to do so for a long time, indicate the overall quality.

Marques de Monistrol brut and extra seco are also stocked by a newish merchant, whose list specializes in Spanish wines—Aribas Kettle, S. St Philip's Place, Birmingham, B3 2PY, who can offer the two Monistrol wines in mixed case lots for £21.17 a bottle. Their list includes 11 red Riojas, four whites, several Catalans including the excellent Torres vines plus three of Masia Badi, each of which merits sampling.

A Freixas sparkler that is a real bargain is the cuvee close Vouve Brant, full of flavour, which has already become extremely popular among City businessmen. It costs £17.8 a bottle, or £21.36 the case lot, from Russell & McIver, The Rectory, St Mary at Hill, E.C.3. To offer this kind of wine at a reception or at parties is both simpler and, usually, less expensive than having a mixed bar or several wines. For those who may have been ill or who simply find that the spring is a long time coming, the cheering attributes of these sparkling wines make them essentials in even the smallest "cellar".

The white wines of the Palatinat or Rheinpfalz tend to be unusual, among German wines, because they often really can accompany food without their flavour being swamped by plates of cold cuts, sausages, or the type of light white cheese that is a Palatinat speciality, these wines, which come from a sandler soil—and from further south—than those of the Rhine or Mosel, are fuller, warmer, and more broadly appealing.

The region's grapes are usually Müller-Thurgau or Sylvaner, but at a recent tasting, a wine made from Riesling surprised and delighted even the most experienced; this might be the special bottle to make a simple cold buffet (minus pickles or vinegar) into something memorably good. This Pfalz wine is from the sunny 1976 vintage and is the Heideheimer Herrgottsacker Riesling, Kabinett, Wonnegau, Rheinhessen, it has a beautiful, compact fragrance, a rounded flavour and an after-taste that trails delectably off the palate. It costs £2.78 from Corney & Barrow, 109 Old Broad Street, E.C.2.

For an informal party, three really cheap French bottles in 70cl bottles, should interest any wine lover: the red comes from the Héruault, the white from the Tarn (where the Maubac grape gives it an odd, mineral dry style) and the brilliant pink from the Var (just north of the Riviera) is, in my opinion, unusually good for a vin rose, freshly scented and with a rounded, fruity taste. It's crisp enough to be a good aperitif but sufficiently robust to go with most informal recipes without losing its definite character. This "pastoral" range of French country wines costs £16.47 for an unboxed case of each, from B. M. & J. Strauss Ltd, The Broadway, Farnham Common, Bucks.

Madeira seems overdue for a comeback in the context of post-prandial hospitality. Constant Gordon, family shippers of fine Madeira, are justly proud of their outstandingly beautiful 1975-1948 Duo Centenary Celebration very old Bual, bottled in Madeira. It is subtly smooth, the bouquet complex and its gentle benevolence will inspire after-dinner conversation, as the magnificent wine makes its effect from the intensity of its initial taste through the gradually pervading after-taste and lingering glow. It costs £5.40 the bottle, from Ellis Son and Vidler, 57 Cambridge Square, SW1.

Pamela Vandyke Price

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, which is the loveliest of all?" I would find it quite difficult to choose between the three looking glasses illustrated here: a William and Mary walnut and marquetry example with its original, shagreened, cresting (Asprey, New Bond Street, £7,950); a high rococo one, about 1760, elaborately carved with acanthus leaves (Trevor of Mount Street, £2,850); or one of a pair of George II mahogany wall mirrors, of simple architectural form with broken pediment crestings (Asprey, £2,350).

There is only one modern book on the subject, but it is a good one: Geoffrey Willis's *English Looking Glasses, 1670-1820*, published by Country Life in 1965 and now unfortunately out of print. For a briefer introduction to the same subject by the same writer, you can consult *The Concise Encyclopedia of Antiques* (The Concise Encyclopaedia, vol. iii, pp. 153-164).

Although the process of silvering glass was understood before the fifteenth century, it was little used, as glass manufacture was still very imperfect. Mirrors were made of highly polished plates of metal. The looking glass industry was mainly developed in Murano, Venice.

Mirrors were not made in England until the early seventeenth century, when Aubrey noted in his *Brief Lives* that a man named Robson had begun making them. In 1618 Robson's business was taken over by Sir Robert Mansell, who employed many expert strangers from foreign parts beyond the sea to instruct the natives of this Kingdom in the making of looking glass plates, and who by 1623 employed some 500 men in the "making, grinding, and foiling of looking glasses".

Sir Robert Mansell (1573-1656) was a retired admiral. He had been knighted after the Cadiz expedition in 1596 when he had served under his kinsman, Lord Howard, and the Earl of Essex. In 1603 he had accompanied Sir Walter Raleigh from London to Winchester for Raleigh's trial.

He incurred the enmity of the Duke of Buckingham, who prevented his having any further sea command after 1621. So Mansell turned his thoughts to business ventures. In 1615 he obtained a share in a monopoly of the glass manufacture in England. As it involved a new process of using sea-coal instead of wood, the monopoly was some years in the nature of a legitimate patent.

But Mansell had to contend not only with those who wanted to infringe the patent, but also those who regarded the Stuart monopolies as a scandal of the age: as John Colpeper was to say in the Long Parliament. These (monopolies) like the frogs of Egypt, have got possession of our dwellings, and we have scarce a room free from them; they sup in our cup, they dip in our dish, they share with the butler in his box, they have marked and sealed us from head to foot.

Half a century later, a glass works was started at Vauxhall by George Villiers, second Duke

of Buckingham, the son of Mansell's enemy, Buckingham was the "Zim" of Dryden's *Abdram and Achitophel*, in which his frenetic dilettantism was satirized:

A man so various, that he seemed to be,  
Not one, but all mankind's epitome:  
Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong;  
Was ev'rything by starts, and odds long;  
But in the course of one revolving moon,  
Was chymist, fiddler, statesman, and buffoon.

Buckingham's activities as a "chymist" were closer to alchemy than chemistry. "For some years," says Buroet, "he thought he was very near the finding of the philosopher's stone". But the only useful result of his experiments was the setting up of the Vauxhall glassworks, which were visited in 1676 by John Evelyn, who reported that they made "looking glasses far larger and better than any that came from Venice".

A further boost to looking glass manufacture in England was the translation into English, in 1699, of a French work, by Francois Haudicquer de Blancourt: *The art of glass. Shewing how to make all sorts of glass, crystal and enamel. Likewise the making of pearls, precious stones, china, and looking glasses.* With an appendix, containing exact instructions for making glasses of all colours.

Geoffrey Willis gives a clear and simplified description of the processes by which looking glasses were made. There were two main methods. In the "broad" process, the glass was blown into a large bubble; the two opposite sides of the bubble were cut off, the tube remaining was slit along one side and the whole flattened. The glass was cooled, ground and polished until as flat as possible.

But there were still flaws and irregularities, and it was impossible to make large sheets by the "broad" process. In the late seventeenth century the French introduced the "glass casting" method: molten glass was poured on to a metal bed, spread over it and rolled flat while hot. Large pieces could be made by this process.

Now looking glass became widely used as wall decoration. By 1667 Sir Samuel Morland, diplomatist and inventor, had installed in his house at Vauxhall a room of walls covered in looking glass. The same decorative scheme was adopted by Nell Gwynne and by Louise de Keroualle, Duchess of Portsmouth. (The novelist Charles Reade introduced the same reflecting decor into his rooms at Magdalen College, Oxford, in the nineteenth century.)

By the eighteenth century, we begin to pick up the names of individual looking glass makers, such as John Gumley, a mirror maker of Queen Anne's reign, who set up a glass-house at Lambeth in 1705 and had a showroom over the New Exchange which Sir Richard Steele commended in 1706.

Gumley's name occurs on

a small gilt plaque on a looking glass. Hanslope Court, another marked "John Gumley 1703" is at Chatsworth. Gumley died about 1729, but his widow continued the business. In 1773 the "British Cast-Glass Company" was incorporated and factories were opened at Southwark and St Helens, Lancashire.

Frames are the best indication of the age of a looking glass. At the beginning of manufacture in England, the glass was small, the frames large. By the 1680s the "cushion" (relief) type was most popular, usually veneered with walnut, but sometimes decorated with lacquer in the Chinese manner.

The Asprey William and Mary looking glass is a particularly well-preserved example as it retains its original "cushion" pattern. Flowers and vegetation in a distinctly Dutch style—a kind of formalized Van Huysum painting, translated into marquetry. Sometimes the wood frames were overlaid with embossed silver, as in examples at Windsor and Knole, Kent.

From about 1690 to 1700 the frame became very thin. In the 1730s and 1740s the "Palladian" or architectural style popularized by William Kent became common. The 1750s and 60s were the period of the elegant rococo giltwood mirrors (some for overmantels, others incorporating oil paintings).

In his book Willis illustrates one of a set of four looking glasses of fanciful rococo style, surmounted by figures of seated sportsmen. The first was supplied to the Duke of Atholl in 1761 and the estimate submitted was £50 for the frame and glass, "the frame to be white and gold".

In 1763 three identical glasses were ordered for Blair Castle, the Duke's other seat. The bill came to £163. We know that these mirrors were supplied by Thomas Chippendale, but Willis suggests that they were probably made and carved by Thomas Johnson.

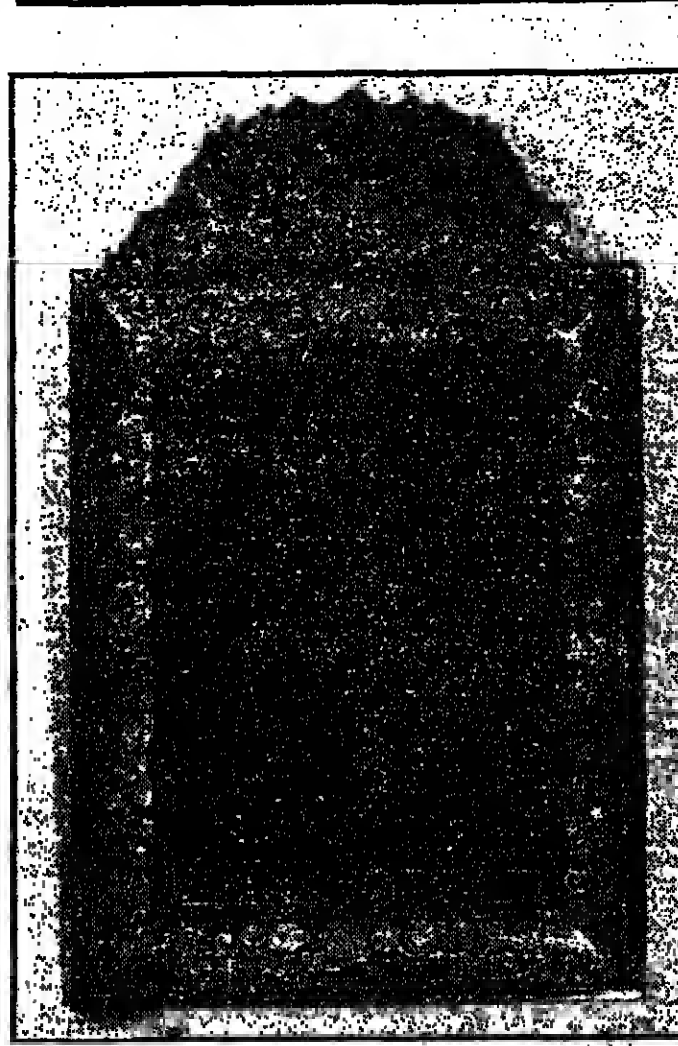
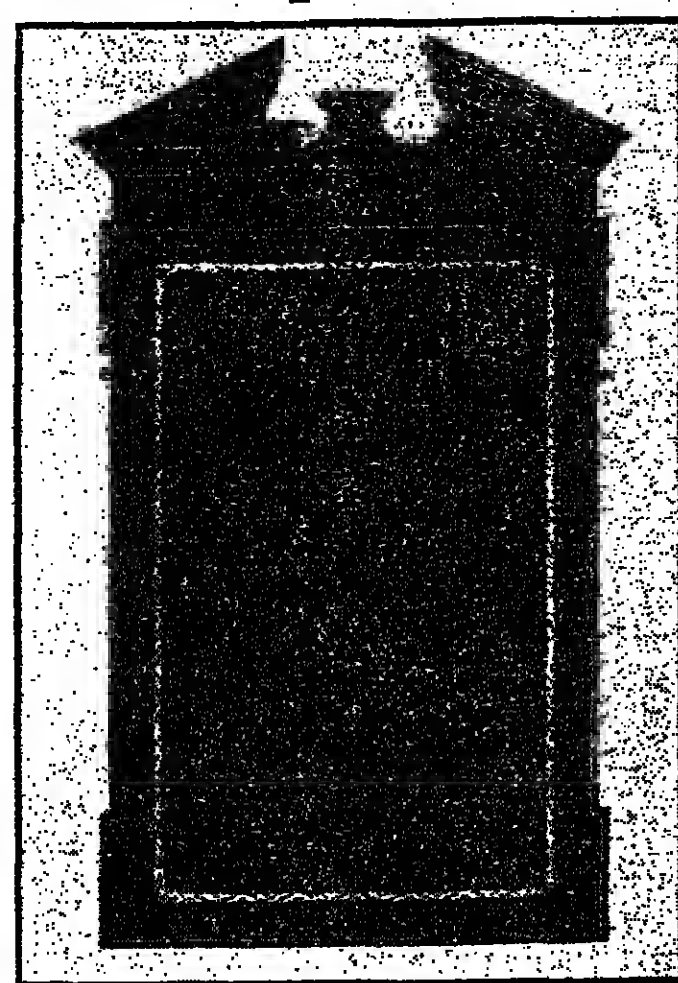
Then came the neo-classical period, with frames based on Adam designs, and the fearful asymmetry of Chippendale rococo gave way to the cool orderliness of pier-glasses and cheval glasses.

But with the Regency, the looking glass came into its own again as a way of heightening magnificence: two images for the price of one. The Colosseum in Regent's Park, London, included a Hall of Mirrors, opened in 1835. W. E. Trotter's *Select Illustrated Topography of Thirty Miles round London* (1839) contained this breathless description:

Nothing can exceed the brilliant splendour of the hall who lighted up for the admiration of the public: the endless reduplications of reflection in the mirrors, which assumed the appearance of interminable extent in every direction; and the various coloured dresses of the company, which assumed the appearance of a countless multitude in constant motion, produced an impression of grandeur which cannot be adequately described. The whole scene is one effulgent blaze of splendour.

Bevis Hillier

## Collecting Two images for the price of one



Above:  
Upright mirror in  
rococo style,  
giltwood carved with acanthus,  
"C" scrolls,  
vine leaves and cabochons.  
c. 1760  
Trevor of Mount Street,  
£2,850

Above left:  
One of a pair of George II  
mahogany wall mirrors,  
of architectural form  
with broken pediment crestings.  
Asprey,  
New Bond Street,  
£2,350

Left:  
William and Mary  
walnut and marquetry mirror  
with original  
cresting, c. 1685.  
Asprey, New Bond Street,  
£7,950

## Chess

### The next big move in Argentina

So the Chess Olympiad, by which the World Chess Championship has, in the course of many years' misuse of the term, become known, will definitely commence on October 25 in the Argentine, presumably in Buenos Aires. According to reports, the Argentine Chess Federation has deposited an insurance bond for the sum of \$300,000 as a guarantee of the event taking place in the Argentine. This is just as well since the recollection of what happened in 1954 when the Argentine were due to hold the event still haunts some of us. With only six weeks to go it was discovered that, somehow or other, the money had disappeared. Fortunately matters were saved by the Netherlands who, with a masterly display of improvised organization, still managed to hold the event at the time originally specified.

Presumably the present Argentine chess organizers are not of the 1954 kind but more like those who made such a magnificent job of organizing the event in 1939. As one of the three survivors of the BCF team at that event (the others are Sir Stuart Milner-Barry and B. H. Wood) I can testify to the brilliant and all-embracing organization of the time. They even dealt with the problem of our travelling expenses by sending a ship to collect the European teams at Antwerp and having us sent back after the event by a sister-ship.

What the present Argentine Chess Federation is going to do to assist the European teams in their travel is not at all clear. If something is not done, it looks as though the only European teams that can take part in the Olympiad will be those whose governments will cover the costs, and this means in effect those in Eastern Europe.

The British Chess Federation looks like having some problems to solve in this respect; but it would be a pity if, just when we seem to have a team that can do really well in the Olympiad, we are forced

to refrain from sending such a team through lack of finance. Comparison of the likely BCF team with those who played in the three previous Olympiads shows that they are not only younger but also stronger than the members of the teams for 1972, 1974 and 1976. At Skopje in 1972 England failed to qualify for the top final group and finished in seventeenth position. At Nice in 1974 we did considerably better, qualifying for the top final group and finishing tenth.

In 1976 the Swiss System was substituted for the qualification for and for groups and in an Olympiad at Haifa, where the participation was limited through political considerations, the BCF came as high as third. However, with such teams as the USSR, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania not competing, and with the West German being but a shadow of their former selves the BCF's result was about par and arguably inferior to our performance at Moscow in 1956 where we came eighth with all these formidable teams competing and with a West German side at its best.

One curious omission from the participating teams of recent years has been that of East Germany. It seems that the East German organizers have a settled rule never to send a team to an international event unless there is a certainty of the said team winning a medal, ie, coming in the first three.

The results have been quite a decline in the strength of that country as regards international chess.

In laudable contrast, an English team has been sent to the event from Helsinki 1952 onwards. What, if we do manage to send a team, are the prospects of the English side in Buenos Aires?

White: Stean. Black: Raicevic. Catalan System. 1. Nf3, Nf6 2. Nf3, Nf6 3. Nf3, Nf6 4. Nf3, Nf6 5. Nf3, Nf6 6. Nf3, Nf6 7. Nf3, Nf6 8. Nf3, Nf6 9. Nf3, Nf6 10. Nf3, Nf6 11. Nf3, Nf6 12. Nf3, Nf6 13. Nf3, Nf6 14. Nf3, Nf6 15. Nf3, Nf6 16. Nf3, Nf6 17. Nf3, Nf6 18. Nf3, Nf6 19. Nf3, Nf6 20. Nf3, Nf6 21. Nf3, Nf6 22. Nf3, Nf6 23. Nf3, Nf6 24. Nf3, Nf6 25. Nf3, Nf6 26. Nf3, Nf6 27. Nf3, Nf6 28. Nf3, Nf6 29. Nf3, Nf6 30. Nf3, Nf6 31. Nf3, Nf6 32. Nf3, Nf6 33. Nf3, Nf6 34. Nf3, Nf6 35. Nf3, Nf6 36. Nf3, Nf6 37. Nf3, Nf6 38. Nf3, Nf6 39. Nf3, Nf6 40. Nf3, Nf6 41. Nf3, Nf6 42. Nf3, Nf6 43. Nf3, Nf6 44. Nf3, Nf6 45. Nf3, Nf6 46. Nf3, Nf6 47. Nf3, Nf6 48. Nf3, Nf6 49. Nf3, Nf6 50. Nf3, Nf6 51. Nf3, Nf6 52. Nf3, Nf6 53. Nf3, Nf6 54. Nf3, Nf6 55. Nf3, Nf6 56. Nf3, Nf6 57. Nf3, Nf6 58. Nf3, Nf6 59. Nf3, Nf6 60. Nf3, Nf6 61. Nf3, Nf6 62. Nf3, Nf6 63. Nf3, Nf6 64. Nf3, Nf6 65. Nf3, Nf6 66. Nf3, Nf6 67. Nf3, Nf6 68. Nf3, Nf6 69. Nf3, Nf6 70. Nf3, Nf6 71. Nf3, Nf6 72. Nf3, Nf6 73. Nf3, Nf6 74. 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Fred Emery

# Tories must foot the bill for liberty

This has been another frustrating week for the Opposition. It argued well enough. There was the rousing speech last Saturday by Mrs Thatcher to the party's local councillors. Then the week's theme could hardly have been better set than in *The Abuse of Power*, title of James Margach's gripping memoirs being serialised in *The Sunday Times*. These followed the Opposition's onslaught on the Government's alleged abuse of discretionary power in pay policy and the block-listing of recruitment firms. Even the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments broke out of its strident sounding background to report incisively on the Executive's seeking to "by-pass Parliament" and its "cynical disregard of the rights of the subject". Yet the week-ends with discussion in newspapers, and among Conservative MPs, of the ineffectiveness of Mrs Thatcher's shadow Cabinet, or depending on the viewpoint, of Mrs Thatcher's obstructors.

The man who wrecked the Tories' impact is not to be found in Westminster. He is, of course, Mr Joe Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers who miraculously, if truculently, delivered

the miners this side of the Government's 10 per cent pay guideline, or so we are assured.

At a stroke, it suddenly looked as if the ad justified the Government's disputed means. Call it arm twisting or arbitrary power. Conquering inflation is currently the sole device the Government will permit on the socialist banner. And although ministers insist that everything, but everything, they do is legal and lawful, and that they would never argue ends justifying means, here was evidence that Mr Callaghan's firm stood against workers and firms alike brought results.

The miners who defied all in 1973-74 were now within 10 per cent—and so was the inflation rate, for the first time since then, crowed Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. Would not the Tories, just once say they were happy to see the inflation rate down? he taunted them.

Their answer has to be a qualified "yes, but...". Just because the Government is succeeding now cannot mean that all have unquestioningly acquiesced in its pronouncements that it is going about it the right

way. "It ain't what you do it's the way that you do it", surely comes even more in democracy than the old song suggests.

The fact that the Government this week has been bold enough—Conservatives would say brazen enough—to introduce new contract clauses threatening to penalise pay-guideline breakers, still does not make the way they are doing it more right than when it was implicit.

It is, of course, politically understandable that a minority government will seek the best means to co m govern. It knows that it could not hope to get any form of statutory pay policy past its own Left wing, let alone the rest of the House. So it was almost inevitable that it would try extending the ancient British vagueness of "discretionary power". Having made no bones of its wish last summer to continue into a third phase of "voluntary" wage restraint, it is now the Tories who are going, into discretionary restraint was also inevitable.

But the fundamental issue here must be taken up again and again. It is simply that governments cannot be taken on trust because—at its most optimistic—they turn out

trustworthy, or "successful". The issue happens to fit too closely with the Tory accusation that this Government is simply not to be trusted because of its record of playing fast and loose with parliamentary and practice, not to say petty cheating. Its legacy, as was heavily pointed out in last Tuesday's debate, is not encouraging. The Government is accident prone in the wrong legal presumptions made in such cases as television licences, Tameside and Skytrain.

But for all the Tory thunder, it was a Labour backbencher, Mr Kiiroy-Silk, who put it most poignantly in last week's debate. "It is a really dangerous precedent for the Government to use discretionary powers in this way because these powers could be used in really dangerous ways by a future Conservative government", he lamented.

The Tories, however, did make some very strong points in challenging the arbitrary nature of the Government's current practices. It is odd that it took them so long to get in this debate. The suggestion that it was only because of publicity for Sun Alliance's pensions problem is dispelled by informed Conservatives.

They say it was because of Sun Alliance that the issue was delayed, suggesting that the large insurance firm wanted to avert publicity at all costs—as most firms have done so.

However, now the Tories' blood is up and the attempt—at the risk of trying to keep one issue simmering for more than the customary presumed attention span—is in being made again next Monday to pillory the Government in its excesses.

Mr Callaghan makes it very difficult, of course. He insists, only in the broadest sense, that he is accountable to Parliament, and it can "back us or sack us".

Given the election atmosphere there is little question that the Government will be intent on reducing the debate to a partisan slapstick level as it did so well last Monday. But the Conservatives, many of them, feel still have a duty to bring home the simple truth. Corny though it sounds, eternal vigilance is still the price of liberty. The Government may win, and try claiming, for the second week running, that Parliament has somehow endorsed its non-statutory discretion. But that would only be a distraction.

## Paper tigresses

Whenever a group of women get together and start something specifically for women, some one invariably asks: why just women? Why do you have to discriminate in their favour? The question was asked when Virago became the first feminist publishing house in England a few years ago. It is bound to be asked again this month when The Women's Press launches its first five books. If the authors are good enough to be published, so the argument runs, then why can't they be produced by one of the dozens of existing publishers?

The answer of course is that they could be. Any book on the Virago or The Women's Press list could perfectly well find its own way to bookshelves by Collins or Hutchinson. But there is a great difference in approach. The feminist publishing houses not only enable women for the first time to be wholly responsible themselves as publishers; they also believe that a publishing house sympathetic to the women's movement will commission and reprint books that might otherwise never see the light of day at all.

The attitude is perhaps best summed up by Carmen Calli, who founded Virago: "As E. P. Thompson said, history is not about kings and queens, it's about how people lived. We want to tell women about their own history". Or by Stephanie Dowrick of The Women's Press: "We question traditional thinking on various subjects, traditional thinking being male thinking. We want to ask: what was women's thinking on that?"

That there is room for a feminist publishing house in this country—there are at least three flourishing women's publishers in America, and several in Europe—seems to have been established beyond doubt by the history of Virago. Carmen Calli was running her own publicity company for books when together with two other women in publishing and fired by what they saw happening in America, they asked Quartet books for backing for a new publishing house specifically for women writers. It was 1973. The three women—Carmen Calli, Ursula Owen and Harriet Spicer—became owners of the company; Quartet agreed to pay an editorial fee for each book taken on. They decided to call the

company Virago—as a joke, though the reaction to the name was apparently overwhelming. And then Virago branched out to their own first year they brought out 10 books—nine are selling well, having almost reached the end of their first printing (which is somewhere between five and 10 thousand copies). This year they plan 20 new books.

It was in fact Virago's departure, from Quartet that made the second feminist house possible. Stephanie Dowrick and Sibyl Grundberg, both of them, like the Virago directors, women with impressive publishing credentials, are themselves now being backed by Quartet, who own 51 per cent of the shares of The Women's Press. They commission, edit and design the books; Quartet prints and distributes them. The emphasis on professional is important: there is, nothing amateur about either group. It shows in the jackets, the blurbs and the publicity.

Good design is rated very highly by both of them. It was a rebellion against the tradition that if a book is political, somehow it must look rugged and home-made. Says Stephanie Dowrick, both Virago and The Women's Press produce mainly paperback, modelled on the French ones; and they are determined to keep their prices low, but not at the expense of the quality of trading on women's "goodwill". Royalties are the same as everywhere else. At between £100 and £150 the Women's Press are slightly cheaper than Virago, whose books start at £150.

Coming second, The Women's Press will benefit from the fact that Virago, largely, Carmen Calli believes, because of their emphasis on social history, has already made the notion of feminist publishing respectable. From the start other publishers volunteered their help. But in the early days Virago suffered from "a" deep-rooted feeling among reviewers that there was something fishy about the product. "It was a little like being a Catholic", says Carmen Calli (who is one). "Or like Mary Whitehouse, writing a book about abortion".

It is too soon to speculate whether two such similar schemes can co-exist. Stephanie Dowrick makes the point that there is no saturation point for

good books. She is of course right. But there might well be one, say, hundreds of self-help. The two also have a slightly different approach to fiction. Three of The Women's Press first books are novels. But Virago has until now steered clear of fiction altogether (though this year they are starting the Virago modern classics). Carmen Calli is somewhat sceptical about modern feminist fiction. Apart from not knowing just what it is, she says, there is far less reason with fiction for a writer not to go to an ordinary publisher, where there is an established name and more money.

If both houses publish ordinary lists (and both do, or will, covering everything from children's books to biography), in what does their feminism lie? Apart from the obvious fact that the books are written by women, and the publishers are women, the difference lies mainly in style and emphasis. To start with there is the relationship between author and publisher; both women said to be their work for closer with their writers, involving them at every stage of production.

Both also say that a new sort of book emerges from this focus on feminism: who thought to produce a book on women artists before? And that when they release novels long out of print, they are seen in a new way. "Publishing", says Carmen Calli, "deals with culture, and women are a separate culture". Stephanie Dowrick adds that inexperienced writers can be helped by the collective, and that they have a freedom to experiment they would not find elsewhere. Blurbs and jackets are designed not to publicise the personality, but the work itself, and to raise it. Even if many of the things they mention can be confused with the benefits that come from being a small organization where everyone knows each other well, the sympathy and interest that women have for the work of individual writers, and both Carmen Calli and Stephanie Dowrick are also clearly enjoying the fact that in these ventures women are seen to be doing things for themselves, professionally, successfully, and in a world to date completely dominated by men.

Caroline Moorehead

## Ayes For King and Country

On February 9, 1933, the Oxford Union debated the motion "That this House will in no circumstances fight for its King and Country". George Angelogiou, one of the 275 who voted overwhelmingly for the motion, looks back on the event.

to regard its latest resolution as symptomatic of universal decadence.

But one man, Winston Churchill, was disturbed, or so he said, when he announced that he would never again speak in such an assembly. One wonders whether Churchill, who at the time was himself not a very popular figure, was abusing the Oxford Union out of pique for the unpopularity of his new son Randolph Churchill, who was then President of the motion of "King and Country" sprung from the Union's minute book.

It is also interesting to recall that in 1935 the Oxford Union staged a mock trial of Winston Churchill before the Court for the Suppression of Current Neocenes, "in that Churchill constituted and constitutes a menace to the world". Michael Foot prosecuted and Churchill was condemned. Dosoo Karaka, who was then President of the Union, sentenced Churchill to be elevated to the peerage! And yet this debate did not receive much press publicity nor did those concerned in the debate receive white feathers!

The point I am making, is that the Oxford Union has often failed to understand and counter the various motions in order to infuse into its debates good argument, humour, wit and occasionally impish undercurrent.

And that's how one should assess the motion of 45 years ago: not as a tragedy of the 1930s, but as a healthy, manly recitation that young people must go through and which is bound to be directed against established conventions. Today of course youth resorts to violence as well, which in our days was considered degrading and uncivilized.

Lastly, it is important to remember the ironical fact that many of those 275 undergraduates who voted with the "Ayes" and many others who had no opportunity to vote on February 9, 1933, voted to fight Nazi Germany, and later Japan.

The only tragic fact is this: not that youth revolts against too much conformity, but that finally, like the hero in an ancient Greek tragedy, who submits to the inhuman laws or conditions of human existence, youth must inexorably obey or perish and in some cases obey and perish.

There is not the slightest reason

fight because Britain's youth was soft and decadent!

That is where my takes over and fact is conveniently forgotten or twisted to suit various political interests—both right and left wing. I think that Professor Max Beloff, rather than Lord Balfour, hit the nail on the head, in the Radio 4 programme, when he said, "At the time, some people were looking for scapegoats in order to cover up their own failings and omissions". The importance of the debate was exaggerated beyond its scope or meaning. The youth of Oxford was against war, but no one would be so naive as to believe that the entire Nazi policy was reshaped because of the Oxford Union debate.

If we wish to be objective then surely we must look at other, much more vital, events of those days. For example, the failure of the World Disarmament Conference in 1933; Italy's attack on Abyssinia; the Spanish Civil War; Britain's attitude that "Herr Hitler could reasonably do what he liked in his own country, and even outside his own country, until finally, in 1938, we came to the final folly—Munich."

So, to say the least, it is absurd and naive to read much into the Oxford "King and Country" debate.

Perhaps *The Times* of Monday, February 13, 1933, put it slightly more objectively, though in a patronising manner, which angered many of us who voted with the "Ayes"—in an editorial entitled "Children's Hour", "Cries", wrote *The Times*, "who take the Oxford Union episode tragically, have no real understanding of Oxford or the limited part which the Union plays in its life."

There is not the slightest reason

## The love-affair with Radio 3

Almost the most surprising aspect of Radio 3 is the size of its audience: some five million listeners tune to it at least once a week, a patronage figure of greater significance than asking how many people listen to a particular programme.

When you consider that over half of this audience listens to the network on a medium wave which does not reach all parts of the United Kingdom, this number of listeners is very remarkable.

A slight majority of those listeners are men; a greater majority prefer orchestral music to any other kind, and all of them in their phone calls, letters and other forms of correspondence, express a love for this network which I have not seen couched in other forms of broadcasting in 25 years of varied experience. Professor Tom Burns, in his greatly stimulating book about the BBC, how one could "love" that institution any more than one could love Parliament or the Post Office. He might have had to qualify that opinion if he had asked to scan Radio 3 listener correspondence.

All the same, a sense of proportion is needed. Radio 3's audience is comparatively small, over two thirds of listeners listen mostly to Radios 1 and 2. Although every one of us has tastes and interests that make us join a minority audience, the most and a minority audience a couple of hours later. I believe that public service broadcasting requires the simultaneous satisfaction of both majority and minority audiences. The existence of a flat licence fee, and that fee is still far and away the best method to finance any decent public service broadcasting system—means in effect that millions of licence holders will pay for services they may not greatly interest them and which they may not often use. Radio 3 cannot thus afford to sound as if it were content to address itself to audiences which could be described as culturally blessed, because such a policy could be economically interpreted as a transfer of income from the less to the more privileged sections of our community. It is the necessary, and complementary, existence of Radios 1, 2, 4 and BBC local radio which makes it socially possible for Radio 3 to address itself to its task with confidence.

The BBC has always treated and prides. The real threats to Radio 3 stem, I believe, from two opposed but often-voiced strands of opinion. There are those who argue that the BBC should concentrate on that which it does best (ie its services to minorities) and leave the satisfaction of majority tastes to commercial interests.

This argument was voiced in the late 1950s when commercial television was temporarily in the ascendant. Had the BBC wavered then, I doubt whether it could have gone on to produce "Civilisation", "America" and "War and Peace" a decade or so later. These series were literally "protected" by Alf Garnett and Septimus.

Lately a variant to that old commercial warhorse has been put up by Tim Rathbone, MP, in these very columns, when he argued that both BBC and commercial local radio should be expanded, on condition that the BBC's investment in local radio should not come from a raised licence fee, but from a withdrawal of funds at present devoted to Radios 1 and 2. This will sound very plausible to the ordinary reader and listener, until he is again reminded that Radio 1 and Radio 2 provide the majority audience

shield for all domestic BI radio services and that at lowering of that shield would immeasurably strengthen commercial radio interests at the expense of the BBC's capacity to appeal to minorities as well to minorities.

A second challenge to Radio 3's present programme poll is often put forward by pop lists who sincerely believe that the greatest cultural good the greatest number could do with the satisfaction of the own cultural tastes and passions. Almost invariably these populists have no pop behind them. If, for example, Radio 3 were to increase its transmissions of jazz programmes substantially, in a programme of classical music, there would be a catastrophic fall in audience. Neither on television nor in the cinema, jazz, particularly contemporary jazz, ever provokes a popular audience, and an inescapable duty of the BBC to encourage and promote music, but any plan on a half based on a concern to Radio 3's comparatively small audiences is bogus. The wide between the Scylla of specialist minority pleading and the Charybdis of unrepresentative populism are happily very wide indeed and allow the good ship Radio 3 to sail through without incurring damage to its own

Many weaknesses remain. If network ought to be able to broadcast beyond midnight, it is difficult to provide a balance of natural output in four evening hours from Monday to Friday when the length of the singing important concert, risk at least two hours. The Open University needs extended broadcast exposure, and a way through where it can operate times of its own choosing; present Radio 3 cannot adequately satisfy the needs of music lovers in the early evening. Judged by the decision criteria of how an appalling scarcity of means is devoted to satisfying multiplicity of purposes, Radio 3 has been able to keep its end a fairly well.

The wavelength changes coming on November 23 present a domestic services with the greatest opportunity, since the national regions have their own networks, Radio 4 will thrive under the challenge of a nationwide audience, long wave, and the balance good audibility for Radios 1 and 2 will, when measured over the entire United Kingdom, tilt towards a stable platform. Nevertheless, geography bound to create losers as well winners. We will endeavour help all our listeners with the means at our command; at the right now for every one of us to make sure we have long wave, medium wave and VHF facilities on our set or sets, maximize programme choice. Radio 3 will change its medium wave to the present Radio 1 medium wave on 247 metres, 1215 KHz and thus will not seem widely thought of as a medium wave capability. As though as a constant listener myself I cannot stress enough how closely high technical quality listening is bound up with VHF.

All in all, this does not seem the moment either for a self-satisfaction of the domain of broadcasting sackcloth and ashes. We might and could do a lot better, if we were given the financial means.

Stephen Hears  
The author is controller BBC Radio 3.

## Why the Jesuits took on 'witch-hunt' McCarthy



Senator Joseph McCarthy: a Catholic fury

With Watergate and its aftermath occupying the attention of novelists and television producers, the much earlier scandals of the McCarthy era have been left to historians. Senator Joseph McCarthy was a practicing Roman Catholic. An article in a recent edition of the highly respected *Church History* (September 1977) has thrown new light upon the Senator's link with a particular religious order, the Society of Jesus. Although the purpose of the article is entirely expository, it highlights the dilemma confronting superiors of the Society when individual Jesuits take stand on moral issues which have, as so many of them do, political consequences.

McCarthy was not quite 22 when, in 1930, he entered the Jesuit-run Marquette University in his home state of Wisconsin to study engineering. He changed his course to law, and graduated in 1935. He had been, the priests later recalled, faithful to his religious duties and deferential to the clergy. After graduation he joined the Republican Party, and in 1939 became a state judge. In 1946 he was elected Senator.

His first three years in Washington were unremarkable. With elections looming he was, in 1950, looking for a cause to espouse. It may have been one of his Jesuit friends, Fr Edmund Walsh of Georgetown University, who first suggested to him the idea of an anti-Communist crusade. This story was first reported by the columnist Drew Pearson in the *Washington Post* on March 14, 1950. Walsh was well known for his alarm at the spread of international Communism, though much less interested in the home-based variety, and he had dined with the Senator in January, just a month before McCarthy launched his campaign at a meeting of a Republican Women's Club.

The article in *Church History*

finds Pearson's allegation not proven. The author, Donald Crosby, is himself a Jesuit. He has talked to people involved, including some of Walsh's friends, and searched through the archives of the Society of Jesus. Mr Crosby, evidently doubts the Walsh story, although he can come to no firm conclusion as to its accuracy. He has, however, unearthed a good deal of additional information about McCarthy's relationship with the Society, and in particular with its weekly magazine, *America*.

Published in New York since 1909, *America* is as much concerned with current affairs at home and abroad as it is with ecclesiastical matters—perhaps more so. When, on February 9, 1950, McCarthy claimed that he had a list of 205 (later revised down to 57) people sympathetic to Communism who influenced State Department policy, the magazine was critical, but only mildly so. McCarthy's charges, it said, were "pretty irresponsible". None the less, the State Department was in need of investigation.

For two years the magazine avoided talking issues with the junior Senator from Wisconsin. In 1952, however, during the Presidential campaign, McCarthy claimed, brandishing a copy of the *Daily Worker*, that the Communist Party supported the candidature of Adlai Stevenson. The editor of *America*, Fr Robert Hartnett, SJ, was a committed Stevenson supporter. In the pages of his magazine he coldly demonstrated that the charge was fraudulent. It was "a cheap stunt", McCarthy replied with a blistering attack upon the paper's policy, claiming that, as an "ardent Catholic" he and his anti-Communist cause were being betrayed by those whom he had formerly respected. *America* kept up its attack on McCarthy and his methods for two years, despite repeated appeals by the Senator to have him silenced. The Jesuit weekly was not the only Catholic voice

to oppose McCarthy, but for the most part American Catholics were sympathetic to the anti-Communist crusade.

McCarthy was a Roman Catholic with a national standing. An anti-Communist crusade was not only identifiable Catholic, it was also patriotic. Catholic support for the Senator was overwhelming.

In the face of such support Hartnett found it difficult to maintain his opposition. By March 1954, *America's* anti-McCarthy line was beginning to soften, though not enough to stifle the barrage of criticism which was being directed by Catholics, and by other Catholic journals, against the Jesuit magazine. Then, in a dramatic breach of a direct Presidential order, McCarthy publicly accepted classified information from a serving officer. In an editorial, Hartnett accused the Senator of overthrowing the rule of law in the United States, and undermining the Presidency.

The fury of right-wing Catholics knew no bounds. Some took refuge in the (probably correct) belief that the views expressed by America were not typical of the majority of American Catholics. Pressure was once more brought upon the Jesuit Provincials—the superiors of the Society in the United States—to have Hartnett removed from office. There were abusive telephone calls and cancelled subscriptions. A shot was fired at one Jesuit residence in New York.

This time the pressure worked. The editorial had been published on May 22. A week later Hartnett was ordered to stop his attacks upon McCarthy. This directive, said the Jesuit Provincials, was to remain secret.

Hartnett protested. The directive, he argued, could not remain secret indefinitely, and when its existence was known the fact that it was issued would be damaging to the image of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States because it was contrary to freedom of thought

and expression. His arguments were rejected. Although not a rather tighter degree of censorship was to be imposed, the Provincials agreed to lift their total ban.

But at this point the Jesuit authorities in Rome intervened. The Superior General, Fr J. B. Janssens, wrote to say that he was extremely disturbed by events in the United States. Jesuit opponents of America's line had written to other papers expressing disagreement among members of the Society was a source of deep grief to the Superior General. He blamed America for engaging in disputes among Catholics. Hartnett, Fr Janssens informed the Provincials, was to withdraw from this dispute immediately. The order was passed on to Hartnett, who accepted it. From June 1954 until the Senator's death in 1957, McCarthy might not have existed as far as America was concerned.

A year after Fr Janssens' magazine,

letter, Hartnett resigned as editor.

The McCarthy era now seems a particularly discreditable period in recent American history. From a vantage point of a quarter of a century, the Jesuit magazine, and its editor, can receive credit for their opposition to the Senator's bullying tactics, and their defence of conservative Catholic opinion, both inside and outside the Society. Had the Jesuit superiors held out for a little longer, they might have shared the credit. Ironically they gave way just at the moment when events were beginning to turn against McCarthy, and when his increasing ill-health was preventing him from playing any further part in the politics of the United States.

Early in 1954, however, this affair presented Jesuit superiors with enormous problems. McCarthy had massive Roman Catholic support, and the stand against him, by America had created divisions within the Society which were no doubt solidifying. Jesuits are urged by their Constitutions as far as possible to "dick alike and speak alike"—and they are also warned not to take sides on issues which are a source of discord among Catholics. Although they had withstood the pressure for so long, the Jesuit Provincials bearing these considerations in mind had little choice. They at first temporarily withdrew, and then, on instructions from Rome, entirely capitulated.

The story is not without its present-day parallels, as the letter page of this paper, among others, frequently bears witness. Hartnett's courageous opposition to McCarthy might well serve as a table for our time.

Michael J. Walsh  
The author is Librarian at Heythrop College, University of London, and was previously editor of a British Jesuit magazine.

Im doing my best to provide for my children and inflation is doing its best to take it away.

Tax up, expenses up, income static. How am I supposed to put a little by for retirement?

It took twenty years of work to build up some savings. And five years of inflation to knock the stuffing out of them.

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# ROPE'S DIFFICULT MEMBER

It is now very unpopular to say that the European Community is over fishing and the "pound" seem to have straws that have broken under the weight of our fellow already strained by the need to meet the agreed for European elections. The recently launched attack saying that "the who they are not ing discussion," are asking special treatment. It is whether the British to respect the treaties. We go on like this? Germany's mood is hing: even deeper. The have a deeper political ment to Europe. They an almost model members ves (unlike the French), re strong advocates of entry. They feel not only l but also let down by ey see as Britain's dis- and disrespectful attitude 'community. On Monday Dr eplied to these criticisms ing that they came from s who wish to preserve the attitudes and is of the Community of and who see the Nine fferent from the original e warned that the Com- could be "suffocated by ad said it was perfectly le for Britain to have its titude to fish, just as 'ad its own attitude to ure. It was, he said, a hical fact, not a rene- act of anti-Europeanism, it was an island. s a spirited defence. He that a lot of cant is and that some people t adjusted to the qualita- ange brought about by ent. He is also right ain has very real special s to defend, especially in (though there are fewer fishermen than French, so he might have drawn arguments from the r conservation). More-

over there has never been any noticeable reluctance on the part of other members to defend special interests, especially when facing strong domestic pressures. Nevertheless, there is some right on the other side. It is partly a matter of style. People are now calling the British the new Gaullists of Europe, and it may be that some Britons have been tempted to emulate what they enviously regard as the successful tactics of the country which for so long kept Britain out. But the label is misplaced in at least three respects. First, there is no anti-Americanism in British postures. Secondly, Britain is not against further enlargement. Thirdly, the French are peculiarly skilful at presenting a defence of their national interest as a defence of European interests. Britons lack this skill, though Dr Owen made a brave try when he claimed to be clearing away out-dated attitudes. Britain's self-interest usually stands more nakedly exposed, and it finds less sympathy now that North Sea oil is flowing and the balance of payments is improving. The basic trouble is the political atmosphere in this country. Pro-Europeans still feel on the defensive. They know that large sections of public opinion are hostile, sceptical or merely indifferent to Europe. They know that British actions in Brussels must often be justified in Parliament not by whether they promote European interests but by whether they defend British interests against the threatening incursions of the Europeans. Decisions must therefore be justified in more nationalistic terms than in West Germany, for instance, where it is still regarded as virtuous to promote the health and development of the Community, provided West German interests receive due regard. The question of style must therefore be given some thought. Britain is likely to get less sym-

# END DO CHILDREN NOTICE COLOUR?

Children are little by differences of race, so the best contribution to good race relations is to ignore those differences, the conventional wisdom, the assumption is correct. A conclusion is reasonable: children are getting on, each other there is no vicious benevolence and now there has been a reason for believing that children of different colour are being brought up together at the primary school level. The report of the Foundation for Educational Research has produced a four-year investigation of a horrifying picture of race in primary schools. The report offers a succession of quotations indicating hatred, contempt, ignorance and the occasional patronizing kindness on the part of white children; and a pathetic sense of inferiority among black and Asian children. If this is a true reflection of attitudes—if it is an indication of how a stoicist minority think and feel, never mind what a majority then it destroys what has been the general assumption until now, and ought to provoke a thorough reappraisal of how teachers should approach relations in primary schools. But is it a true reflection? It is hard to be sure, because it is not possible to judge the strength of the evidence on which the report is based. To say this is not to doubt the authenticity of the quotations, but what one needs to know is how representative these quotations are. This uncertainty is no justification whatsoever for failing to publish the report. It is most regrettable that the Foundation and the Schools Council, whose approval is required before the report can be published, have not yet decided to publish it in full. Evidence does not have to be conclusive before it is worthy of publication. This report is

material evidence—and if the Foundation and the Schools Council do not accept that it is, they need to explain why they have been financing a team for four years who are not capable of coming up with evidence that is even relevant, whether or not it is conclusive. The picture presented in the report may well turn out to give an accurate impression of how a significant number of children react. Even young children are influenced by the attitudes around them and they live in a society where there is unfortunately a good deal of prejudice. But it is reasonable to ask for corroborative information of one kind or another before reversing established beliefs on race relations in primary schools. If those beliefs do have to be reversed then the first change would need to be in the assumption of teachers that it is right for them to play a passive role. They would have an obligation above all to foster an equality of respect. This could be done only by the way they treat children of different colours as individuals, but also by taking account of the different backgrounds and problems of the various races as groups.

# el changes

M. J. Tooley would support Mr. Robert Bole in a Man for All Seasons. Thomas More himself did not see his conscience as self-made. On the contrary he made his judgments on the basis of a careful analysis of the facts of Henry VIII's situation; and More trusted in faith that his conscience was at one with God's will. In making Thomas More saint the Catholic Church (as well as historians with no links to Roman Catholicism) have "authenticated" More's judgement of the King's situation and of More's relationship to the King. Your letter refers to "the primary choice of conscience" which is perhaps appropriate in the context that Sir Thomas More did indeed believe in his autonomy to make his own decisions and form his own life; but he also believed in a divinely ordered life of which conscience was only a small part in the midst of pre-activity and friendship. We would do well to recognize that Sir Thomas More's continuing influence is due not solely to his conscience, but to his faith in Christ's relevance to the world. Yours sincerely, ROBERT KAYN, Director, The Catholic Housing Aid Society, 195a Old Brompton Road, SW3, February 8.

# as More's motives

Robert Kayn's excellent tribute to Sir More (February 7) warrants orator qualification. Many atrocities are now bappy to the Dean of Westminster a Reformation was not a mistake from which we need "scud" for it is right to say that the unity that is to never be again is to be that one was. However, center also claims that Sir More was basically "asserting" right of the individual to authenticate itself in

# Nazi-Soviet pact

From Mr. Louis Allen Sir, Your second report on the Leeds history seminar on "Secret Intelligence and modern politics" (February 6) quotes Sir Denis Austin as saying "the Foreign Office was not aware, in any detail, of the Nazi-Soviet pact until it was announced in August, 1939". It's not clear what the paradox is "in any detail" covers, but intelligence must surely have been aware of the pact. Nazi-Soviet rapprochement from the late spring of 1939. I say this because the French intelligence service had a source on the German staff, a former colonel of an Austrian army, who had offered his services to the French as an air attaché. Captain Paul Stehlin. The colonel used as intermediary a young Frenchman who gave his family French lessons, and he told Stehlin that Nazi-Soviet negotiations were going on. Stehlin already had an inkling of this—and so took the report seriously—from the German General Bodenschatz, a deputy of Goering's, who told him, in the course of a conversation in the German Air Ministry, that Hitler intended to solve the problem of Poland by bringing the USSR over to his side. There have already been three partitions of Poland. The date of the conversation was April 30, 1939. Stehlin reported his two sources, but the French Air Ministry merely asked him over the telephone and told him to confine his attention to purely military considerations. Confronted, the French Ambassador, did however convey what Stehlin had said to the Quai d'Orsay. The Foreign Minister refused to believe it. It seems that that happened was the not unfamiliar story of the users of intelligence, not the suppliers, being at fault. Yours sincerely, LOUIS ALLEN, Department of French, University of Durham,

# The politics of race and immigration

From Mr. T. L. Hemminger Sir, Wasn't it rather a degrading spectacle to see on television both the Conservative and the Labour Party caucuses in Oxford North on the eve of a by-election campaign in co-occurring discussion, the problem of immigration in terms of, as was unambiguously admitted, election "tactics"? Fundamental national and constitutional issues being decided not by the parties' official candidates but by their self-appointed local masters? Frank and intimate as communion with local supporters should ideally be, ought not the Member of Parliament and he alone make such decisions and answer for them to the electorate? A vociferous minority in my own party caucus in Oxford North objected to my carrying in the Commons the first introduction of a Bill to make incitement to racial hatred a statutory offence, likewise to my campaign to persuade my Conservative council to appoint a community relations officer. Others equally objected to my insistence in three successive election addresses that good race relations depended upon the parties' decision to restrict further immigration must not be absolute. But they recommended that such decisions were for decision by me and me alone in private and not as a matter of election "tactics" by them. My independence was evidently represented by the caucus for, on the first motion, the vote of 35 self-appointed individuals decided that my services in their attempt to win back my seat should be rejected in favour of a number of alternatives. "Central Office Approved List" official candidate, no matter what the 20,000 odd electors who supported me in 1974 may think about it. So be it of course—officially, at any rate. But the implications for the independence of Members of Parliament in such matters as race relations are disturbing. Yours faithfully, TOM IREMONGER, 34 Cheyne Row, SW3, February 7.

# From Professor F. A. Hayek, FBA

Sir, Nobody who has lived through the rise of the violent anti-Semitism which led to Hitler can refuse Mrs Thatcher's admiration for her courage and her courage in her own words. When I grew up in Vienna before World War I the established Jewish families were a generally respected group progressively merging with the rest of the population and all decent people would frown upon the occasional anti-Jewish outbursts of a few popular politicians. I can remember from that time that time was directed against the Czechs who had been streaming into Vienna in large numbers and were beginning to create their own schools. It was the subject of a large number of Galician and Polish Jews, fleeing before the invading Russians, which in a short period changed the attitude through a large part of society. They were too visibly different to be readily assimilated. I am shocked on my visits to Vienna in the early 1930s to find people who had not long before regarded as indecent any anti-semitic remark (including a good many people of Jewish descent) arguing that, though they despised Hitler, they had to agree with his anti-semitic policies—which, of course, had not yet revealed their most dreadful forms. It was those recollections, confirmed by much that I observed later elsewhere, which made me write some 10 or 12 years ago without yet being aware of the acuteness of the problem in Britain, what I would like to be permitted to repeat here: "While I look forward, as an old man, to a state of affairs in which national boundaries have ceased to be obstacles to the free movement of men, I believe that within any period with which we can now be concerned, any attempt to realize an ideal would lead to a revival of strong nationalist sentiments and a retreat from positions already achieved."

# Facts about Windscale

From Mr. Arthur W. J. Lewis, MP for Newham North West (Labour) Sir, The Windscale public inquiry has been held in the most open and honest manner. The freedom and frankness of its openness was the envy of the world. Issues were subjected to the keenest scrutiny that has ever been permitted by any government at any time. In the words of Mr. Peter Shore, these issues "maneuvered not only to those alive and residing in the immediate neighbourhood of Windscale, but also to those who live far away and to those who will not be born for many years." The world in its determination to fully confront all the difficulties involved in the nuclear options. The Windscale public inquiry was a manifestation of high responsibility, it showed the world that the state abroad. On the call upon the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr. Peter Shore, to publish the report of the Windscale inquiry now. Cautious

# Vaclav Havel

From Mr. Michael Kustow and others Sir, In view of your close coverage of the Czechoslovak human rights movement Charter 77, we were surprised that, along with most of the serious British press, you failed to report the latest events affecting Vaclav Havel. Havel, probably the leading Czech playwright today, already has a 14-month sentence, suspended for three years, for allegedly damaging the name of the state abroad. On January 28 he and some 200 fellow "Charists" attempted to enter a railwayman's ball in Prague. Police prevented them; scuffles broke out during identity checks; another playwright, Pavel Kohout, was knocked unconscious by police; and finally Havel, together with the musician Jaroslav Kukul, was detained by the police, charged with causing public disorder. As we write the three men are still remanded in prison. If convicted Havel could face an additional two-year sentence. While appealing on behalf of all three men we make a special request for Vaclav Havel, whose work we know and admire. We ask the Czechoslovak authorities not to punish further a writer whose plays—widely

# Towards Christian unity

From Mr. E. Y. Hales Sir, The Bishop of Southwark (February 9), mentions many beliefs on which Roman Catholics disagree among themselves. But he doesn't mention about what happens at the Mass, though that is the belief most relevant to the inter-communion argument. Perhaps he found that there, at the centre of their faith, Roman Catholics were more united and silently at one in their belief. Yours faithfully, E. Y. HALES, Edwinton House, Henfield, Sussex, February 9.

# From the Right Reverend F. H. West

Sir, After reading the Bishop of Southwark's letter to The Times this morning (February 9), I found myself reflecting that, if this is the effect of the Red Flu upon him, what a good thing it would be if, while still infectious, he attended the next Bishops' Meeting at Lambeth, sat next to each of his episcopal brothers in turn, beginning if so permitted, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and so put them all in the way of catching the same complaint well before the end of Lent. Yours, etc, FRANK WEST, 11 Castle Street, Aldbourne, Wiltshire.

# From Professor K. A. Balhatched

Sir, The obstacles to intercommunion are not merely theological. On certain moral issues the Roman Catholic Church has taken an unambiguous decision while the Church of England seems to be undecided. Roman Catholics consider abortion to be a mortal sin. A recent opinion survey revealed that the laity were almost unanimous in this view: it is not a matter about which it can be suggested that the laity are less firm than the clergy. It is therefore inconceivable that an Anglican surgeon or nurse, fresh from committing abortions in a state hospital

# Employees' shares as incentive

From Mr. Paul Derrick Sir, You suggest in your interesting article on February 6 that incentive might be increased by the nationalized industries by an extension of employee shareholding. It may be that experiments along Renault or Volkswagen lines might be attempted by a Conservative Government. It should be remembered, however, that many members of the Labour Party are less than satisfied with the way in which the nationalized industries operate in Britain and some take the view that working for a nationalized industry is much like working for a large company. Mr. Wilson has suggested that the nationalized industries should be "socialized"; and it would be like to suggest that one way of doing this might be by a wider application of cooperative principles. Employee shareholding may not be the best way of achieving community of interest in industry for several reasons. First, more shares than others. A cooperative productive society, on the other hand, is run directly in the interests of its worker members. The John Lewis Partnership and the Mondragon cooperatives have shown that this can help to increase incentive and productivity; and Equity Shares Ltd of Leicester, one of the larger productive societies in membership of the Co-operative Productive Federation, paid a higher bonus on wages last year than did the John Lewis Partnership which paid 18 per cent. If British Leyland were to have arranged along somewhat cooperative lines it might be useful for outside shareholders to be converted into loan stock or into non-voting shares like those of the John Lewis Partnership and for the workers to be convinced that their earnings and their jobs depended directly upon their efforts. Such a direct incentive might have advantages over an indirect incentive through holdings of transferable ordinary shares. A basic principle of cooperative production is that the return paid on capital is limited and that surpluses are distributed among those whose work has created them. Yours faithfully, PAUL DERRICK, Co-operative Productive Federation Limited, 30 Wandsworth Bridge Road, SW6, February 7.

# From Mr. J. R. V. Coutts

Sir, I found the general impact of Derek Ezra's rather bland response (letter, February 9) to Mr. Dees-Mogg's article, "Productivity in the Public Sector", depressing. So often one has heard well worn clichés like "there is only one way of solving these problems by management clearly defining them and identifying the 'correct' options". Phrases like these, however nice they may sound, will not solve Mr. Ezra's basic problem as to why, in this country, the coal miner does not produce as much as his counterpart in, say, Germany or France. It was a disappointment that the Chairman of a leading nationalized industry was not more willing to look positively at the original and constructive suggestions that Mr. Dees-Mogg has made. Yours faithfully, J. R. V. COUTTS, The Court Lodge, Chislehurst, Kent, February 9.

# Maintaining pav guidelines

From Mr. Philip B. Lomax Sir, Mr. Harradine states that it is well within the law for the Government to include a covenant in contracts to comply with its guidelines on over. This may be so but the fact is that the principle of the Unfair Contract Terms Act and the Consumer Credit Act of minimizing injustice arising out of inequality of bargaining power? Yours faithfully, PHILIP B. LAWSON, Stannemore, Rove Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, February 9.

# Future of English cricket

From Mr. Oliver Popplewell, QC Sir, Mr. Subba Row's judgment (February 9) on cricketing matters always commands respect. Even if he did rule me out once in the University Match 11—but while negotiations and compromise are normally much to be commended, it is impossible to see how much further the authorities can go, even though they can now speak from a position of strength. For English cricket there are two immediate problems—the county matches this summer and the Australia tour in the winter. The counties have been allowed to make their own decision in the summer but it would be quite unreal not to recognize that the strength of feeling among the majority of county players and cricket lovers is likely to manifest itself even more forcibly before the season is over, whatever discussion there may be. Next winter England visit Australia. The arrangements for this have been known for a long time. At the same time Mr. Packer will be operating in direct and deliberate competition. Both cannot contain the same players. The only practical area of compromise is for those English and Australian players good enough for the Test series to be released by Mr. Packer, but they would have to be available for the whole tour. No doubt if Mr. Packer is willing to do this the authorities, until then I believe they should stand firm and beware the siren song of compromise. Yours faithfully, OLIVER POPPLEWELL, 2 Crown Office Row, Temple, EC4, February 9.

# Swinefllesh

From the Reverend P. L. C. Richards Sir, I remember my grandmother (born 1852) complaining that the butcher had set her "not pork but pigmeat". The implication was that it came from the wrong sort of pig. Coverdale's Psalter refers to huls-flesh (Psalm 50 verse 13) but God, it seems did not want it. So Mr. Koning (letter, February 7) is in good company even if the BBC is not quite as original as he supposes. Yours etc, P. L. C. RICHARDS, The Venns, Saniger Lane, Newtown, Berkeley, Gloucestershire.

# Trains in the blizzard

From Mr. Donald S. Massie Sir, As an example of the temperate climate of the Director-General of the Meteorological Office, February 9, I found travelling conditions by train to the north-east of Scotland surprisingly easy and pleasant at the time the blizzard had parts of the Highland railway closed. I was well treated with buffers serving hot refreshments, conveyed me via Glasgow and Aberdeen by the coastal route after an overnight journey from Exeter. These trains were not only running, they were arriving at their destinations on time, and in some cases minutes early. British Rail (Scotland) deserve a bonus for getting trains through on time in midwinter; for getting them to their destinations before their scheduled time of arrival, when the Highland lines were closed by snowdrifts from Perth and Inverness and points further north, is surely praiseworthy indeed. Yours sincerely, DONALD S. MASSIE, 94 Tabbenden Lane, Orpington, Kent.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Rices panel will investigate top management group and PC Magazines

Mr Harris (Tidall) stated Portland Cement makers (APCM), the "Circle" group which about 60 per cent of the Kingdom cement market is being investigated by the Commission.

Following notification of rise of around 10 per cent by the main cement makers, which operate under a price control agreement with the Cement Makers' Federation, the APCM will now depend on APCM may get as an award under profit provisions.

The commission also issued last night an order of IPC Magazines, of Reed International, increases on women's and magazines of between 1p and 2p had been sought.

Cement Makers Federation last night that the companies which are to the common price control, including Rydg and Tunnel, would not and with the increases for March 1 until the Commission had considered APCM's application for a price rise under the "safeguard" rules which during an investigation, a price increase will be a line with the APCM award.

Factors wanted to increase of ordinary, rapid and coarse-ground cement together with her special cement.

A said last night: "We have been permitted to increase the amount of the intended price, but the Price Commission has agreed to take of the position of the companies whose application will be the subject of a report in considering our for an interim price

### Bankers and ministers to hold secret Paris talks

Finance ministers and central bankers of the world's five leading industrialized nations are expected to meet secretly in Paris over the weekend, according to informed European sources.

Mr Michael Blumenthal, American Treasury Secretary, is scheduled to visit Bonn on Monday to discuss "economic issues" with Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor. He is expected to be in Paris either at the weekend, or after the Bonn trip, it was stated in Washington last night (AP-Dow Jones reports).

A spokesman for the Treasury in London would neither confirm nor deny the possibility of a Paris meeting. French officials also refused to comment.

Central bankers attending the meeting are expected to go on to Basel for the regular monthly meeting with colleagues from other industrialized nations at the Bank for International Settlements.

Mr Henry Wallach, a director of the American Federal Reserve Board, will represent the Fed. at the Basel central bankers meeting and, presumably, at the Paris meeting.

William Miller, the incoming Fed chairman, cannot attend because the Senate has not yet confirmed his nomination.

Topics likely to figure on the two agendas include future strategy for official intervention in foreign exchange markets after the recent stabilization of the dollar, and discussion of prospects for narrowing the United States current account deficit.

Krone devalued: The Norwegian krone was devalued by 8 per cent last night. The decision was taken at a meeting of European central bank leaders in Copenhagen. The Danish central bank said all members of the European joint currency arrangement, the "snake" had concurred. The devaluation was agreed at Norway's request on the ground of its adverse payments situation.

Iceland also devalued last night by 13.1 per cent, Reuter reported from Copenhagen.

### Steel unions consider overtime ban

By Paul Routledge

Steel union leaders yesterday moved a short step closer to industrial action over a pay offer from the British Steel Corporation which is fractionally below the Government's 10 per cent ceiling.

The national executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the industry's largest union, considered a list of sanctions that might be imposed if BSC did not improve its 9.5 per cent offer and drop some of the conditions attached to it.

The ISTC has taken the usual step of calling its full executive to the next round of pay talks with the corporation on February 22. Only this body could initiate industrial action if the union's negotiators failed to reach an agreement on pay. Steelworkers' leaders are considering a number of options, including a national ban on overtime.

The confederation's executive yesterday officially rejected the BSC's offer. The annual pay settlement to reforms in working patterns and acquiescence in the accelerated rundown of the so-called Beswick plants due to close over the next few years.

ISTC negotiators will demand that British Steel give the full 10 per cent permitted under the Government's guidelines, and introduce local productivity deals like those operating in the mining industry, rather than proceed any further with the industry's own work-measured incentive scheme.

Mr Bill Sims, the union's general secretary said last night: "An overtime ban would close the industry. We are running on a shattering for labour. If there is any sickness, there is nobody to fill in."

He added that if steelworkers could be given the same kind of productivity agreements that

had been conceded in the pits, they would give the same productivity.

The TUC Steel Industry Committee is to meet the corporation again next month, and probably Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, for further negotiations on the industry's losses.

Straws in the Whitehall wind have suggested to ISTC leaders that the Government is preparing to "swing the axe" and go for beyond the original Beswick closure proposals for a more ruthless series of cutbacks that might involve 40,000 jobs. "If they do, they will have a fight on their hands," Mr Sims said.

Merseyside to calling a mass meeting to discuss any proposals from the company. No such meeting has been held since the early days of the strike which began on November 1.

It is thought that by giving official backing to the dispute the union leaders could be putting themselves in a position where they can "order" the strikers to meet.

So far, the strike by 2,000 men at Speke has meant losses totalling almost £100m through a shutdown of production.

At the nearby Ford plant at Halewood a strike is also in progress and will enter its sixth week after the weekend. A walkout by 1,000 men from the press shops has meant the layoff of 3,000 others at the Merseyside plant together with 2,000 more from Ford's transit van factory at Southampton, which gets its transmission units from Halewood. Ford production losses now total around £50m, mostly in Export cars.

### Societies' net receipts well down at £388m

By Margaret Stone

Building society net receipts dropped from £421m to £388m in January, the first time since last August that the net inflow has been below £400m. The figure compares very unfavourably with the record intakes of £590m and £554m recorded last October and November.

However, building society leaders are not as worried as some might expect. There are indications that heavy bills—attributed to the delayed payment of a credit card Christmas and the upturn in consumer spending in January—were met in the early part of the month.

More importantly, the net inflow was beginning to improve sharply by the end of the month. February is expected to show some improvement over January, although a modest one because February is short on working days.

Another reason why building society leaders remain unperturbed is that they are actually quite happy with a lower level of receipts.

A net monthly inflow of £400m plus monthly repayment of capital of about £300m leaves the societies with £700m a month to lend. This level is seen as compatible with a "reasonable" rather than explosive increase in house prices this year.

The Government is anxious to avoid another house price boom such as occurred in 1972-73 for which the building societies' demands, which were held virtually responsible.

If a similar pattern of house price movement were to reappear the Government might this time take action, perhaps by inviting societies to place certain assets in a special fund. Any form of government interference in their operations is anathema to the societies.

So, despite increasing evidence that house prices are beginning to move upwards at a more rapid rate, the official line on house prices from the building society movement is that house prices will increase by 12 to 15 per cent only this year.

Privately, some building society leaders believe that the rate of increase will be higher, with the main thrust upwards coming in the first six months of the year.

The increased activity in the housing market is confirmed by the level of advances in January. Traditionally this is a very depressed month, but this year £58m was advanced, which although lower than in the previous three months is very high when seasonally adjusted.

New commitments—the money promised to borrowers—were stronger still at £728m.

The forecast is that lending will continue at this rate, £700m a month, in the foreseeable future.

Although the societies' liquidity position declined from 21.8 per cent at the end of December to 20.6 per cent at the end of January, this is a reflection of tax bills paid rather than a change in the societies' underlying position. Seasonally adjusted, there has been practically no change in the liquidity level.

### ate borrowing 'below £6,000m'

line Atkinson forecasts of the year, just completed in the v. are believed to show little borrowing this year below £6,000m. This is low the last published forecast of £7,500m. It is considerably less than the Government's forecast of £8,000m to £9,000m and the level now 10 by many private forecasts.

Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) is one of the variables monitored by international Monetary Fund. It is notoriously difficult, and the Government has recently revised its estimate upwards in the last year.

Borrowing is important a measure of the fiscal of the Government—ch it is contributing in the economy and of its implications for new supply. A larger means that more Government has to be sold for

any given increase in the money supply.

The undershoot of public borrowing is somewhat puzzling. As figures published on Thursday show, central Government alone has borrowed much less than expected in the first 10 months of this financial year, even in April.

Higher company tax revenues, with a faster-than-expected rise in profits, are partly the reason for lower Government borrowing. The personal sector has also paid more tax than expected, although it is not quite clear why this should be.

Incomes are thought to have risen fairly sharply in the fourth quarter of last year and the levelling out in unemployment which has occurred in the last few months was probably not predicted by the Government. This cuts spending on unemployment benefits.

Another major factor in the revision is underspending by the public sector. This has been even greater in this year than

### TUC blamed in row over recognition

By Our Labour Editor

The Engineers' and Managers' Association yesterday accused the TUC, to which it is affiliated, of "a crude attempt" to prevent new, whittier union being recognized by British Shipbuilders.

It disclosed the contents of a letter from Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, to Mr Michael Casey, chief executive of the state group emphasizing that "an early decision not to recognize the Shipbuilders' Association is essential in the interests of good industrial relations in the industry."

Mr John Lyons, general secretary of EMA, said last night: "This is such a crude attempt to dictate to British Shipbuilders on a matter on which they have absolutely no standing that I believe it is evidence that some people in the TUC are losing their sense of proportion."

### Leyland's Triumph plant may be in jeopardy, strikers are told

Leyland workers at Speke, Liverpool, were warned again yesterday that the future of the Triumph car plant could be in jeopardy.

A strike has halted all production at Speke for 15 weeks.

The Transport and General Workers' Union has given official backing to the dispute which has halted all production of TR7 and Dolomite models.

A letter from union officials to Mr Patrick Lowry, the company's Director of Personnel and Administration, stressed the uncertainty and difficulties which the plant faced.

He said that the pay dispute has stopped production of its sports model for so long that "in competitive places such as the United States it means virtually starting again from the beginning—with the added disadvantage of the model's past history."

The letter invited union leaders to meet management at Leyland House, London, next Tuesday.

A spokesman for British Leyland said last night: "We can only reiterate what Mr. Edwards has already said. This is that Leyland will not let short-term effects like the strike at Speke get in the way of long-term objectives."

R. W. Shakespeare writes: The apparently surprising decision by the Transport and General Workers' executive to give official backing to the strike on Merseyside may prove to be no more than a means of putting the dispute into a new negotiating context.

So far, the problem that national union officials have had in talks with the management is that they have had no mandate from the shop floor to move towards settlement terms. This was also the difficulty experienced in a series of talks arranged by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

One of the company's complaints has been the resistance by the shop stewards on

Merseyside to calling a mass meeting to discuss any proposals from the company. No such meeting has been held since the early days of the strike which began on November 1.

It is thought that by giving official backing to the dispute the union leaders could be putting themselves in a position where they can "order" the strikers to meet.

So far, the strike by 2,000 men at Speke has meant losses totalling almost £100m through a shutdown of production.

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### Japanese shipbuilding failures begin to mount

Tokyo, Feb 10.—A chain reaction of business failures in shipbuilding and shipping-related companies emerged today in Japan, a sign of increasing deterioration in the industry.

The TUC has absolutely no standing that I believe it is evidence that some people in the TUC are losing their sense of proportion."

It was also announced that export ship contracts, received in January fell 43.3 per cent from a year earlier in terms of tonnage.

Daiwa Kajun KK, an Osaka-based shipping company, applied today for an arrangement with its creditors over debts estimated at 20,000m yen (£43m), according to a private credit inquiry agency.

The Daiwa failure follows the collapse already reported of Shin-Yamamoto Dockyard Co, a Kobe-based shipbuilder, which has liabilities estimated at 24,000m yen—the second largest shipping failure after Daiwa.

Asahi Kasei KK, which went under last December with debts of 45,000m-50,000m yen.

An associate of Daiwa Kajun—Asahi Kasei KK, the Tokyo-based marine equipment trader—today applied for liquidation with debts of 30,000m yen.

Asahi Kasei is also affiliated to Nippon Yusen KK (NYK Line), the world's largest shipping company in terms of bottom owned.

Japan Ship Exporters' Association (JSEA) said export contracts obtained in January in-

volved 20 vessels, totalling 153,660 gross tons, valued at 45,949m yen, a fall in tonnage of 43.8 per cent from a year earlier.

JSEA said the export ship order backlog at the end of January came to 470 vessels, totalling 8.27 million gross tons.

Of the total, 245,000 gross tons were accounted for under contracts due for cancellations, and 679,000 tons for ships completed but laid up at the builders yards.

Hence the net order backlog was 7.34 million tons, less than 15 per cent of the 50.24 million ton peak in March, 1974.

Imports down: Imports to Japan licensed in January totalled \$5,616m (nearly £3,000m), down 14.9 per cent from \$6,600m in December, but up 2.6 per cent from the same month last year. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry said today.

Imports licensed from the United States in January fell 12 per cent from December and 15.9 per cent from a year earlier to \$1,051m. Those from South Asia were down 16.8 per cent from December but up 14.6 per cent from a year earlier to \$1,197m, and from the European Community they were up 8.7 per cent from the previous month and 28.2 per cent from a year earlier to \$346.5m.

AP-Dow Jones.

### Wilkinson Match deal tactics worry market

By Nicholas Hirst

Institutional shareholders are still expressing concern over the deal whereby the American group, Allegheny Ludlum Industries will sell its True Temper garden tool subsidiary to Wilkinson Match for an issue of shares.

Originally the deal would have given 51 per cent control of Wilkinson to the American group, but as a result of an accountants' report on True Temper the deal was revised this week so that Allegheny will end up with only 44 per cent.

The institutions are worried that this still amounts to effective control. Discussions are continuing between shareholders' representatives and Wilkinson to see if the new deal will prove acceptable.

A general issue of principle is still seen to be involved—whether one group should gain control of another without a general offer being made to all shareholders.

The Takeover Panel has maintained all along that shareholders had the right to decide in general meeting whether this deal should go ahead and has relied on practice notes attached to the Takeover Code in arriving at its decision.

Some institutions, however, remain concerned because the

panel lays down a general rule that 30 per cent of a company amounts to control and any shares acquired over and above that amount should trigger a general offer.

Allegheny has escaped this rule. First, it bought 29.9 per cent of Wilkinson from Swedish Match, then proposed a deal, acceptable within the code, which resulted in the issue of shares in exchange for the sale of its True Temper subsidiary.

It had become obvious that if this deal involved 51 per cent of Wilkinson passing to Allegheny there would be considerable, and possibly overwhelming, opposition to it as the necessary shareholders' meeting called to agree it. One feeling now is that the substitution of 44 per cent for 51 per cent makes very little difference.

It is thought that the 30 per cent limit laid down generally by the panel as the level of control is chosen because that is the level at which it is easy to block another bid from outside.

A 44 per cent holding would make a bid from outside unlikely, and is little difference in practice from a 51 per cent holding.

Institutions are still prepared to wait for the full documents, but it is clear that some are still far from happy even with the revised proposals.

### C intervention ends Dutch pharmaceutical cartel

Feb 10.—The Dutch Pharmaceutical Association (PFA) has announced the end of the cartel of pharmaceuticals in The Netherlands, terminated after an action by the European Commission, a spokesman for the mission announced today, which was recognized by authorities, had in the of the Commission in EEC competition rules lifted the market to the of the consumer.

The Commission said, the reciprocal exclusive of selling arrangements of competition between producers, importers and affiliated to PFA and

completely prevented competition between those who were affiliated and others.

Secondly, the Commission objected to the resale price maintenance which the PFA imposed upon its members in respect of all products, including imports.

Independents' aid plea

A new government agency to help increase the flow of funds to independent companies is

### Carter Bill on aid for IMF again postponed

Washington, Feb 10.—Mr Carter's Administration is worried that Congress might not pass a Bill authorizing \$1,750m in United States financial support for a new International Monetary Fund lending programme.

Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Treasury Secretary and Mr Anthony Solomon, the Under-Secretary mer with Congressmen and their aides in an effort to dispel criticism about the Bill and save off a human rights amendment.

The Treasury officials previously spoke in favour of the so-called "Witteveen facility" designed to supply IMF loans to countries with balance-of-payments difficulties.

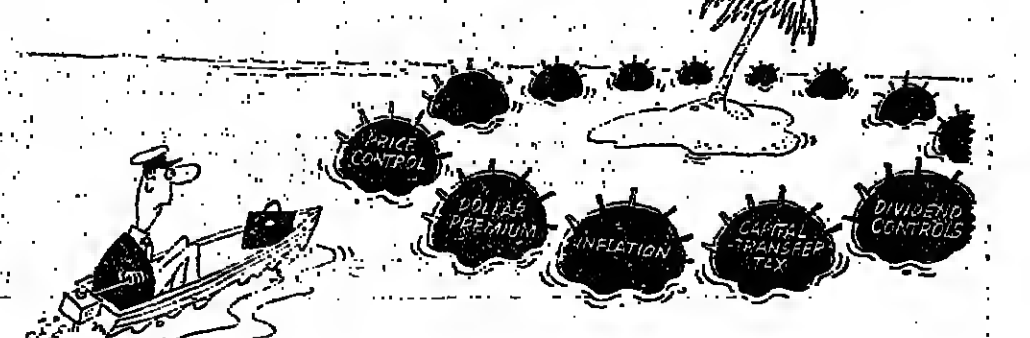
Representative Stephen Neal, one of the Bill's floor managers, said he did not know what the Bill's chances of passage were. But he said a vote had been postponed—for the third time—to the week after next.

The \$1,750m is the United States share of a \$2,500m fund. Petroleum-exporting countries have agreed to provide up to half of the facility. But the programme will fall through without American participation.

The Treasury has said there will not be any interest cost on the financing because it will receive interest rates slightly above its cost of borrowing.

Representative Neal said the Bill has been drawing resistance from conservative Congressmen, who see it as a form of foreign aid, and from liberal Representatives who want to add the human-rights amendment.

The amendment would instruct the United States executive director to the fund to vote against loans by the fund to countries where there were violations of human rights.—AP-Dow Jones



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### the markets moved

10p to 125p	Mears Bros	3p to 24p	Bank
9p to 175p	Orrex	5p to 115p	buys
7p to 112p	Rover's Mac	8p to 38p	sells
13p to 47p	Spirax Sarco	14p to 26p	Australia 5
12p to 162p	Welkom	13p to 23p	Austria Sch
			Belgium Fr
			Canada 5
			Denmark Kr
			Finland Mk
			France Fr
			Germany Dm
			Greece Dr
			Hongkong \$
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			Japan Yn
			Netherlands Gld
			Norway Kr
			Portugal Esc
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			Spain Ptas
			Sweden Kr
			Switzerland Fr
			US \$
			Yugoslavia Dnr

The Times Index: 198.94-0.40  
The FT Index: 4710-2.3

THE POUND	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
	1.75	1.70
	2.25	2.20
	65.50	62.50
	3.20	2.14
	11.38	10.98
	7.90	7.60
	9.75	9.40
	4.26	4.04
	73.50	70.00
	8.20	8.18
	1750.00	1685.00
	490.00	465.00
	4.35	4.33
	10.21	9.85
	81.50	77.00
	1.95	1.82
	164.75	157.75
	9.30	8.95
	3.96	3.74
	1.99	1.93
	39.75	37.50

### Electricity chief predicts need for fast reactors

Britain would need fast reactors in commercial production by the late 1990s and certainly by the beginning of the next century, Sir Frank Tombs, chairman of the Electricity Council, said in Frankfurt yesterday.

Sir Frank, who was speaking to the British-German Trade Council, said that to meet this target it would be desirable to start construction of a commercial unit by the mid-1980s.

On fairly low assumptions of economic growth it seemed likely that total primary energy demand in the United Kingdom for the year 2000 would be about 500 million tons of coal equivalent.

"The upper limit of coal production in that year is likely to be 170 million tons, and indigenous oil and gas together may provide rather more than 200 million tons, The balance must be met by nuclear power."

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Sterling strength hits Reed Shaw Osler

By Tony May  
Fluctuations in exchange rates took toll of the results of Reed Shaw Osler, the Canadian-quoted international insurance broker, in which the company's profits by just over one-third to £2.5m. The other £2.5m of profits came from the industrial activities of the company. The company's net earnings in terms of Canadian dollars, the translation of these results into sterling produces a profit of £11.1m, or £1.17 per share before tax for the first quarter. Commission and fees earned brought in £15.2m from which operating expenses of £13.3m, £1.7m for interest, dividends and other income then added £700,000 against £610,000. Net earnings a share are down from £2.22p in 1977. The board however points out that the results for the first quarter are not necessarily an indication of the outlook for the full year.

Stock markets

Nervous end to account

At the end of a week dominated by the miners' settlement, the stock markets ended nervously in front of a batch of crucial economic indicators due next week. These include trade figures, retail prices index and money supply, the last named being a particular point of concern with a wide variety of opinions on whether growth has exceeded the Government's target area. These considerations apart, a total lack of short-term interest rate movement has been a factor in the market's nervousness. The FT index spent most of the session below its overnight level. After some early interest fell away on the subsequent activity and though off the bottom closed 23.3 lower at 471.0. This left it 123.3 up on the week but 6.5 down over the two-week account.

Lower profits forecast for year at Scotcrös

By Michael Clark  
The board of Scotcrös, the packaging food and transport equipment group, in a circular to shareholders regarding the takeover of the Remy Group, of France, says that there is likely to be some reduction in the group's consolidated pre-tax profits for the current year. The deal, which was announced last October and is Scotcrös's first move into the food industry, involved a payment of £10.7m for an 80 per cent stake in Remy. The document also disclosed that pre-tax profits of Remy, which makes closure and packaging for the food and drink industry, have grown from £198,000 in 1973 to £374,000 in 1976. The latest eight months to end-August, 1977 shows some £284,000. But because the deal was completed only a short time before the end of Remy's financial year of December 31 last, the results of Remy are not to be consolidated in the Scotcrös results for the year to end-March next. The directors go on to say that the Scotcrös companies and Remy continue to trade profitably. But because of exceptional non-recurring costs of at least £200,000 in connection with two major United Kingdom development projects—plastic sheet production in the packaging division and safety cabs in the transport division—there is likely to be some reduction in pre-tax profits for the current year. However, the board's view of an improving future remains unchanged.

Charterhouse disposal

Charterhouse Group has sold to Bell and Webster, a subsidiary of Ilex Holdings, for some £240,000 cash, that part of the business of Charterhouse Structures concerned with pre-cast concrete framed buildings, together with certain assets having a written down book value of £270,000. Charterhouse Structures made trading losses of £13m in the year to September 30, 1977. This included a large loss on the sale of its pre-cast concrete framed buildings which was closed down earlier last year. By this action Charterhouse has further reduced its exposure in the construction industry.

The Charcon Group, the parent company of Charter Structures, now consists of companies successfully making concrete flags, kerbs, tunnel linings, piles and GRC products, operating from five factories in the United Kingdom and one in Holland.

In September, 1976 Charterhouse reached agreement for Amalgamated Roadstone Corporation to buy the concrete pipe business of Charter for £3.5m cash. Under a separate agreement the merchanting and making of pipes in Scotland would continue to be run by Charter Scotland.

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on a per share basis. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net of a 15% tax on profits.

Company Sales Profit Earnings Div Pay Year's

of or in £m £m £m £m £m £m

British Airways (BA) 1,250.0 0.002(0.001) 0.02(0.01) 0.02(0.01) 14/4 1977

British Petroleum (BP) 1,250.0 0.012(0.013) 0.12(0.13) 0.12(0.13) 14/4 1977

British Telecommunications (BT) 1,250.0 0.012(0.013) 0.12(0.13) 0.12(0.13) 14/4 1977

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# BELL'S

Afore ye go

## Stock Exchange Prices

## Guilts subdued

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Feb 24. § Contango-Day, Feb 27. Settlement Day, March 7

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

# BELL'S

## SCOTCH WHISKY

fore ye go

[illegible]



## Weekend

## SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Brooks is a name well known to all smokers—smokers of trout, salmon and other goodies, plain or exotic. I first introduced his bot-smoking boxes some years ago and readers are still itching each other about them, shops stock them and a big export market has built up. Then came Salmon King, the cold smoker which preserves without cooking so as to produce the more familiar smoked foods like smoked salmon—the hot smokers cook and anyone who has not tried hot smoked trout or other fish with lemon and butter ought to do so. It has a flavour all its own.

And now, after two years of trial and error, Brooks gives us the barbecue. Just as he beat many of the smoker firms, all from overseas, at that time, by producing a British product at a lower price, so he has aimed to do something similar with Delphi and Sparta, his barbecues. Aiming at the medium price range, he went for finish and design, avoiding what he saw as mistakes in many other brands. He gave wooden handles to the grills to save burnt hands. He developed a pre-treatment and a number of finishes to avoid rusting or blistering; and he got the whole thing designed to pack compactly into good display cases. He also got a good book prepared by Maggie Black (no relation and quite a Mrs Eeaton in her way). Both barbecues are very similar, the Sparta being larger (approx-

mately 24 by 13 inches) at around £20 and the Delphi £16. The distributor is Brooks Home Smokers, 88 Windsor Road, Southport, Merseyside PR9 9BY (0704 36892).

I got an experienced barbecue couple to give Sparta a try. Already familiar with Brooks' hot and cold smokers, they had only praise for the strength, finish and apparent durability—their main complaint at this stage being that I had asked them to cook out of doors in December and January. They approved the three-sided wind-shield and the two grilling racks with wooden handles which are supported above the hot charcoal by slotting them into the windshield so that both stand firmly. Each grilling rack holds four large steaks or one could ring the changes by using the racks, skewer and spit attachments—permanently two out of three, they said.

The advantage of feeding either a large family or party, or of being able to use half the barbecue with one grill for smaller families, is much improved by this pair. The unit's compactness, folding into a carton measuring 21 by 11 by 6 in thick, was also appreciated, but they both felt a stouter, costlier cardboard box with a lid might be a good idea—or do barbecue owners leave them out all year? They would have liked basic data on how to fuel and light the thing (they know but reckon most people do not) in a book that gives so much advice on preparing to barbecue, cardboard plates, first aid, and even trestle tables but no mention at all of the obvious

charcoal and methylated spirits to get it all going (it is not easily lit without meths).

When the book is reprinted, these criticisms will be met, but the carton, aimed merely to cover distribution, travel and transport, will probably remain because, it seems, people prefer low prices to over-protective packaging for something that does not need to be boxed. The only other criticism was that the stove-enamelled finish on the windshield smelled at first when burned. Since the stove-enamelling process involves a final drying under heat—most models are simply air-dried—this should not happen and, if it does, should not last long. However, it is wise to get it over with so as not to spoil appetites if it does smell. The testers found hand-turning the spit wearisome and recommended spending an extra £3 for the very cheap, effective battery-powered motor which runs on cheap 1.5 volt batteries.

The Tilley Lamp Company, specialists in camping and outdoor cooking equipment, has also brought out a barbecue grill with a fine mesh grill for camp, garden or even home when other fuels either do not exist or are lost by industrial disputes—it costs around £9.70 with VAT. For stockists and for a catalogue of Tilley models write to The Tilley Lamp Company, Dumfries, Dumfriesshire, BT17 5JA. They have now introduced

a versatile camping table. Odell, famous for outdoor and lounge garden furniture, is doing barbecue and related products but I must admit that I have not had a chance to get them tested. I would rarely recommend unshielded barbecues out they have hooded and shielded models to sheet metal at medium prices. However, these are pretty basic and the more versatile models or the models with greater convenience cost from about £38. The Smoke'n Pit is a fascinating device, being a charcoal/water smoker from America which cooks marinated or steamed food in its own juices to give a smoked flavour. It is neat, simple, foolproof and involves no work, no turning over, no protection from charring or burning and comes in brown, orange yellow or main black. The grill diameter is 15½ inches and it costs £49.90, including VAT. See its picture and description in the catalogue from Odell, 43/45 Broad Street, Teddington, Middlesex.

You can buy an outdoor cooker which grills, spit-roasts and becomes a fireplace and room heater for £195. It runs on wood or charcoal, has a motor-driven spit, a top lid to keep food hot and a design that allows fat and dripping to run down into a cast-iron pan rather than into the fire. It can be hooked up to a chimney to burn rubbish, with the ashes easily removable through the wide

front door. For cold winters, it can even be a greenhouse heater or a heater for spare rooms and cottages, playgrounds and outdoor workers. The Leda is a black enamel, cast-iron unit with two red wheels, red chimney and handles. I am not absolutely sure for whom I advise it but let's start with week-end hideaways, campers, country dwellers who like to economise on other fuels but have plenty of wood; ethnic types and just rich people who want fun toys and barbecues. You can get stockists' names from Ellis Sykes and Son, Victoria Works, Howard Street, Stockport, Cheshire. To me it looks a little like an early steam engine and, as such, endearing. You can build your own barbecue and let me remind you of the kit, complete with re-constructed stone slab, marked at prices from £80 or so to £140 by E. H. Bradley Building Products, Okus, Swindon, Wiltshire. As part of the landscape in a large garden a built-in barbecue looks good as well as being convenient.

Repeating that my testing couple recommend the Brooks barbecues as good value and lacking many of the faults they have found in other barbecues, I must add that you can get names of other makes and makers from Skewer, an association of barbecue makers, with a membership of some four hundred members. Skewer is at 47/48 New Bond Street, London W1Y

Personal valets are not much in evidence these days, but few men look after their expensive suits and even fewer like having to do so. University Tailors valetted my husband for something like 20 years and we never had a single cause for complaint that I can remember. Items came back after being found in the pockets, buttons were fixed up and stitches made in time to say nothing of the excellent care, cleaning and efforts to keep the suit de-shined—my husband was not exactly kind to clothes and University Tailors were a positive blessing. They also proved to be cheaper than ad hoc cleaning and mending places, as well as being highly professional—naturally enough because the suits are cared for by trained tailors.

They charge an annual subscription but include a good deal of service which would normally cost extra even if you could find someone willing to do it. They collect and deliver in London, most parts of Greater London and some parts of the Home Counties—anyone living within 50 miles of Charing Cross should write in if they can call. However, many of their clients are businessmen who live and work elsewhere in Britain but come to London at least once a month for meetings or business engagements of some kind and who are prepared to bring the suit with them in the box with the carrying handle. Some subscribers have found the service so reliable that, provided they know they will be in the office on the appointed day, they travel in one suit and change in the office when the valet's van arrives.

A mail order service can be arranged, involving specially-

developed packing, so anyone can subscribe. Prices are subject to individual questions. No single subscription can be shared by a group of people but there are special group rates, also subject to quotation.

For the standard service, there are three different rates, each payable in advance for the year and each including full maintenance and the checking and repair, at no extra cost, of more than 50 wear points like straps, buttons, pockets, seams, rubbing at wrists or neck, buckles, linings and the rest. Not an I being either fair or accurate to keep on writing about suits since the service can include coats, dresses, evening dresses, ladies suits and coats and so on. If minor repairs outside the general service are involved, these are automatically done if under £5 and estimates given above that.

For twelve suits, collected and delivered monthly, the annual cost is £54.37 including VAT plus the initial purchase at £3.38 of a zip-fronted suit cover. For 26 suits (or equivalent) the annual charge is £110.91; for 52 it is £207.02. For the first two services you need to buy two suit-covers initially, but these are bought only at the outset and not every year if the subscriber continues.

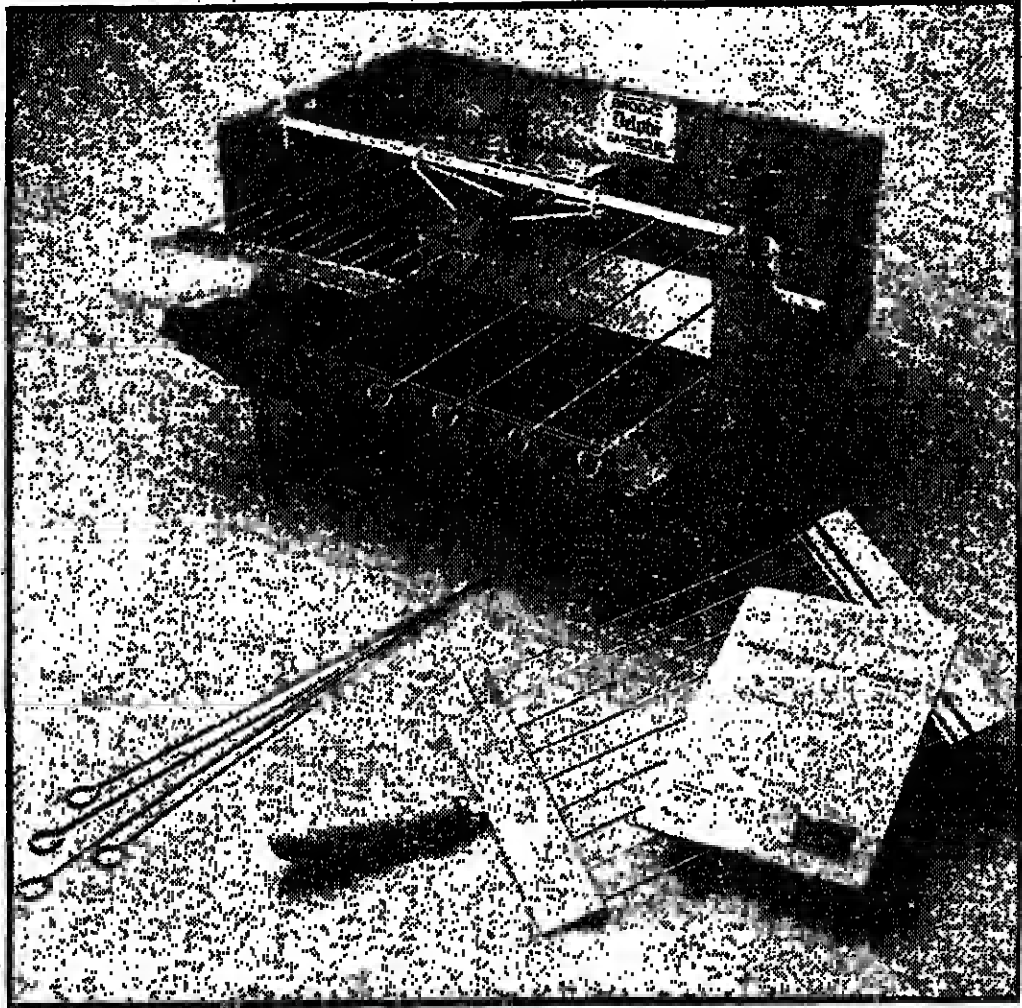
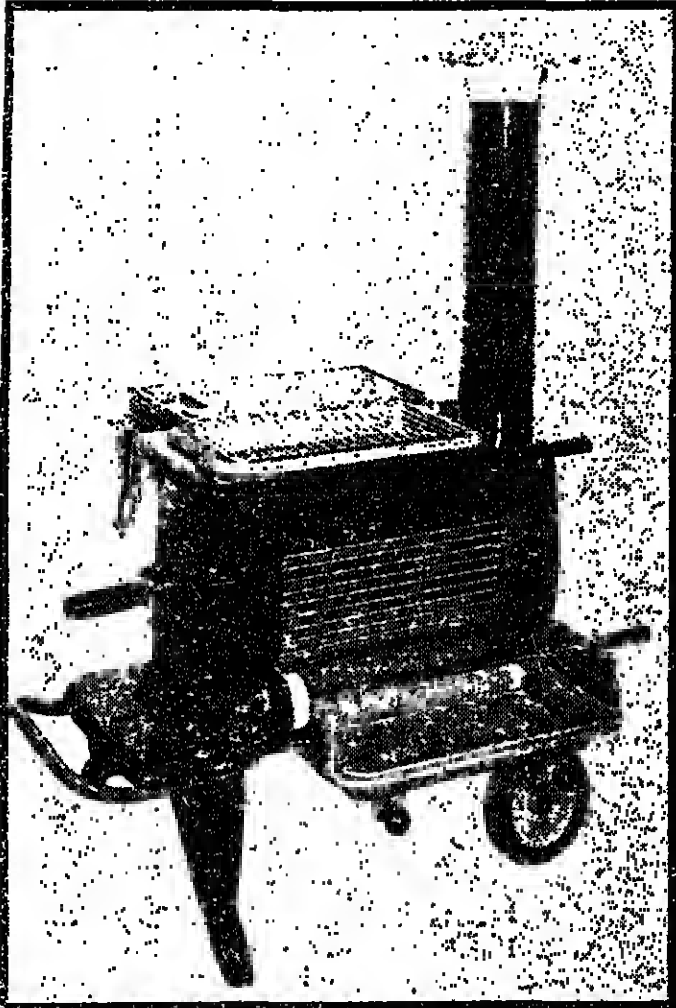
Thinking about the cost of a suit brings me to a brand-new service, for University Tailors now make bespoke suits. The tailor, calls in the London area, at offices, homes or hotels just as the Valetcare vans do, to show swatches and then make fittings. The advantage is twofold—first the convenience of having the tailor come to you, and then the value, for the price avoids the built-in extra of high rents in London's West End. A suit is therefore costing from £145 to £160 according to the material and whether or not it is two-piece or three-piece. I recall that, for my husband, a three-piece was a jacket and two pieces of trousers which is advisable for heavy sedentary men. I have not actually seen a bespoke suit but, if their valeting standards are any guide, they ought to be trustworthy.

The same firm handles your environment or at least a part of it. University Curtains collect, clean, hand-presses where advisable, and returns uncreased curtains still in perfect shape. They will call to take down and rehang in some areas. Charges are from 60p per square metre for lined fabrics except velvet; 72p for lined fabrics and unlined velvet; 90p for interlined fabrics and lined velvet; and £1.02 for interlined velvet. This is purely a cash service, not subject to subscriptions and the prices are exclusive of VAT. Get details of Valetcare, suit-making and curtain-care from University Tailors, Heldon Valley Centre, Lawn Lane, London, SW8 1UD (01-735 6799).



Unless major repairs are involved the suit is away for a week, no more. They do amazing grafts of material from unseen places to make near-invisible mends on the obvious parts. They do not dry-clean unless absolutely necessary, a decision they take and for which there is obviously no extra charge. For the most part, the suit is degraded, de-stained, spotted, cleaned and hand-pressed by professional tailors who know how suits are made, where the vulnerable points are, and how the original shaping and shrinking was done so that the suit is constantly being created anew.

Even if suits are dry-cleaned, they get a subsequent condi-



The new Mothercare catalogue is ready and, as usual, packed with value—remember they now cater for children up to 10 years old as well as for babies and mamma-in-waiting. A yogurt-making kit is new, with insulated container at £3.75. A friend who is not a fanatic about nature cures and such but who does stay healthy and keep her children that way, assures me that plenty of yogurt helps to lessen childhood over-reaction to some treatments, including penicillin. I have no idea whether there is any medical support for the theory, but can admit there is plenty of medical praise for yogurt. Home-made ones can be delicious mixed with fruits, dried fruits, vegetables and savoury things.

I am full of admiration for the pavement bicycle, fitted with stabilizers (two little extra wheels on strong rods on the back wheel) with adjustable rest and handbars, purchase free tyres, decent wheels and its own little toolbag and spanner. An excellent transition from trike to bigger bike, it costs £24.90 and has a maximum saddle height of just under two feet.

Train them for skateboards with Mothercare roller skates at £3.70. They have the Continental square toes for greater stability and are channelled, which adds to the metal's strength. Lace-up tops give the feet support and rubber wheels with nylon bearings run smoothly. In sizes from 8 to 4, these should make most children happy in more places than skateboards can find for their sport. Catalogues from all 170 United Kingdom branches or from Mothercare-by-Post, Cherry Tree Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD2 5SR. They also sell goods by post.



The Loft Conversion and Home Extension Bureau found itself lumbered with an extended name and so restyled itself recently. The new name, National Home Enlargement Bureau, probably came after hours of thought and discussion and although apt, it sounds to me rather like a photographic enlarging counter. However, what else can they call it?

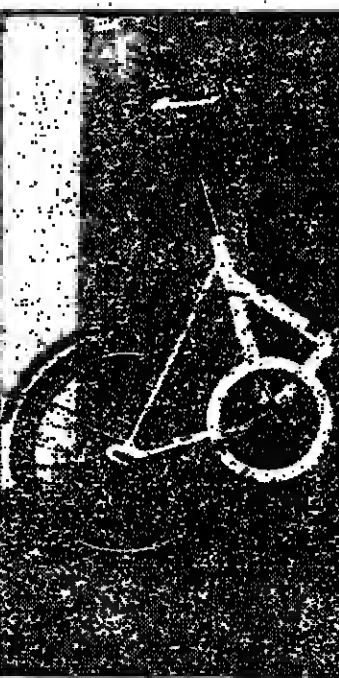
Members have to conform to strictly-governed standards, as much to keep out the rogue invaders who often damage houses and householders' pockets as to protect housewives. Home Enlargement to abbreviate the name a little, will advise on design, building, choice of products or brands and the essential finance.

For a copy of their book, More Room for Living, and for a list of members in your area, write to NHEB at 594 Kingston Road, London SW20, giving the name of your local authority. Send 12p in stamps, please. Any feasible home enlargement, like almost any home improvement, is a lot cheaper than moving unless there are other reasons for the latter course. The booklet gives a few well illustrated ideas of some of the possibilities.

While advertisements urge us all to be healthy and lusty, the British Heart Foundation is again joining with its own keep-fit drive by offering incentives to slim. Fatties try to persuade friends, relatives and possibly enemies to sponsor them at so much per lb of weight lost. Cadbury's Marvel, the skim milk powder, has given away £5,000 in prizes and others are coming in. The 7th Slim runs for two months with separate classes for individuals and for groups—a method many people love because friendly rivalry stimulates the will to lose weight by shaming backsliders in front of the others. Individuals will compete for the "Slimheart of Great Britain" title for the person who raises most money from sponsors. Winning groups will be entered for the "Lighthouse of Great Britain" title, where the total number of lbs lost is divided by the number of group members (maximum ten people).

The campaign is being launched on Tuesday, February 14, St Valentine's Day. Well, the slim are likely to attract more love, are they not? May 15 is the closing day for all applications, complete sponsor forms and entry forms from British Heart Foundation headquarters, 77 Gloucester Place, London, W1 or from 17 regional offices (see telephone books). Cycling is a good idea. You cannot cheat the way you can with cars or public transport—oh those resolutions to get off one or two steps too soon or park the car some distance off and walk the rest of the way. How soon they fall by the wayside.

The Micro-Bike is one of the fold-up variety, which won Design Council approval. It is a



say little thing in white and matt black, selling complete with a red nylon bag to attach to the front for shopping or work. The bag doubles as a fabric garage when the bike is folded up, because it actually does fit into the bag. It also weighs only 25lb, so it should fit acceptably somewhere in most office buildings. It can be fitted with rear carrier platform for brief cases. The Micro-Bike costs £93 including VAT, which makes me rather glad I have always been terrified of cycling. Fortunately there are few like me and they are probably all fitter.

The machine is entered for one of this year's top design awards, and it will be promi-

ently advertised and mail-ordered from May. In the meantime, it is in a number of shops like Rentabike, Student Centre, Kensington Church Street, London W8 (they sell as well as rent); Condon of 144 Gray's Inn Road, London; Chamberlains of Kentish Town; and others. It is being distributed by Blazing Pedals, 305 Westbourne Park Road, London W11 (01-221 6322) who also retail Micro-Bike. Blazing Pedals can arrange mail or carriage to anywhere in Britain pending the build-up of other stockists. Made in Birmingham by a company which used to make Formula One racing cars, this is a fine bike that folds and unfolds smoothly.

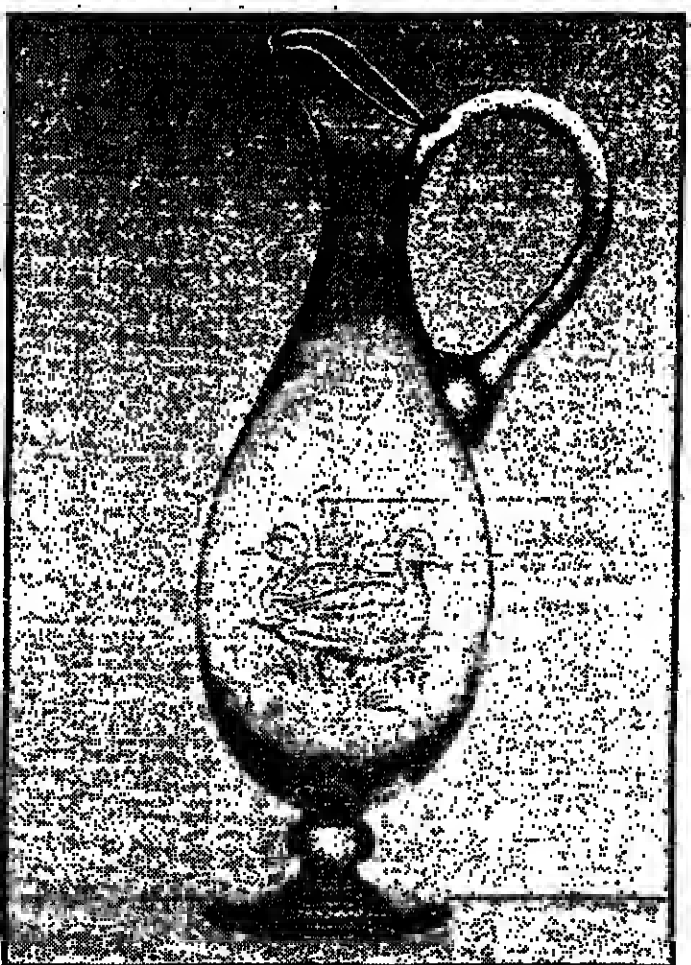
At No 5, New Bond Street, just south of the Watches of Switzerland corner shop and almost opposite Asprey, is a discreet place that looks rather like the anteroom to an audience chamber for a modern Marie Antoinette. It is superbly, yet not ostentatiously decorated with the finest materials and is warm, tranquil and relaxing. On closer inspection, it turns out to be a shop selling only the famous Rolex watches, a fact which is obvious if one enters through the normal, imposing front entrance from Bond Street since the watches are in the windows. Perhaps, by the time you call, they will also be in the showcases on the lovely glass tables that serve as counters but the fitting was incomplete when I called and the watches were under lock and key elsewhere.

The idea in the mind of Sidney Rogers, managing director and chairman of Watches of Switzerland when he rang up Andre Heimgartner, the Rolex chief, in Switzerland last month and announced that, with the day of the specialist here and with the success of the Plagat shop, he wanted to open a Rolex shop. Heimgartner jumped to it, sent over Madame Schmid, a decorator who has worked a lot for Rolex and acquired international fame. The result is the brown, gold, and beige overtones of the showroom in Bond Street where the marble floor was specially quarried for the shop after Madame visited Italian quarries to choose its warm red and dark blue granites. The white chandeliers on the walls and overhead, shade down through pale blue to deep blue tips to brighten the brown velvets on the chairs and discreet beige silk on the walls. The floor

had to be reinforced to carry the thirteen tons of marble which, despite its polished gleam, is absolutely non-slip. The softers and other necessities of everyday mundane trade are locked in decorative, panelled cupboards and there is even a comfortable little rest room with settee for prolonged transactions or for brief waits for attention. Yes, people do wait and the major problem with Rolex, makers of the famous Oyster, Day-Date and Datejust watches, has been that demand outstripped supply even at top prices.

Recognized as world leaders who have never compromised over prices and whose watches are uncompromisingly functional although often beautiful, Rolex is made in steady but limited quantities. Rogers' object has been to build up a stock, at vast expense, and to make London almost a Rolex centre where customers receive special treatment from trained staff. "I counted the first thirty people diving into the Nice Lido last year," he told me. "Twenty of them were wearing Rolex watches."

Prices are from around £250 for steel models up to many thousands. Rogers' own Rolex, bought for £485 16 years ago, would now cost £2,000 plus if he had to buy it today. The watch is identical but is weighed with gold as well as automatic mechanical perfection. In fact, Rolex is the only watch with a second-hand market and with a queue waiting for good-condition models. There are no quartz versions of the famous automatics. Rolex is also the best-selling watch in the world, superbly understated or slightly dazzling but as individual as the Rolex of which Heimgartner says with pride: "Many have tried to copy Rolex but nobody has succeeded in selling the copies because they cannot maintain the quality." Rolex addicts, to New Bond Street with you.

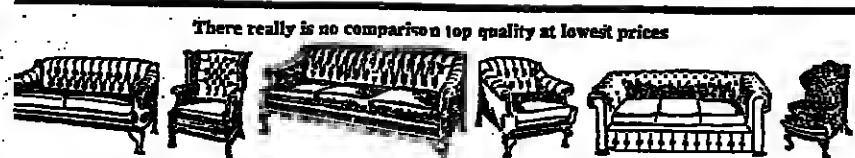


It seems there are collectors of pot lids. I was vaguely aware of the fact but cannot pretend that it impinged on my consciousness much until I was sent a book called Pot Lid Post, a handy annual for collectors, complete with some interesting guidance notes and a feature about salerooms. Price movements over the years are charted and reported at some length with one or two interesting conclusions about specializing in pot lids. Some of the prices amazed me but, it seems, it is over too late to start and new collectors have by no means missed the boat, according to Richard Cashmore, who publishes the Post and runs

Backford Antiques which, logically and naturally enough, sells pot lids. Before you rush enthusiastically to your hoard of spare lids, I must point out that these are specially decorated lids from famous potteries, not the teapot or casserole top you hope will fit next time you break the lid rather than the body. I can boast nothing like The Strawberry Girl or Crystal Palace and Edward VII with his Quince Alexandra, but if anybody fancies plain brown, slightly chipped, I'm your supplier. Meanwhile, the authority, or a guide to other authorities, is available from Backford Antiques, PO Box 26, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B72 1TP (021-308 1498).



## HOME & GARDEN



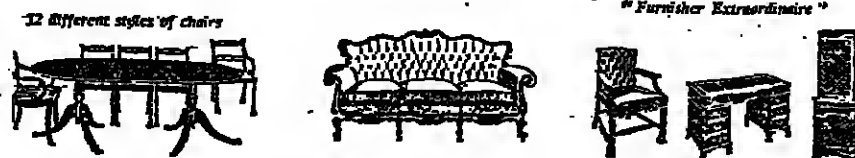
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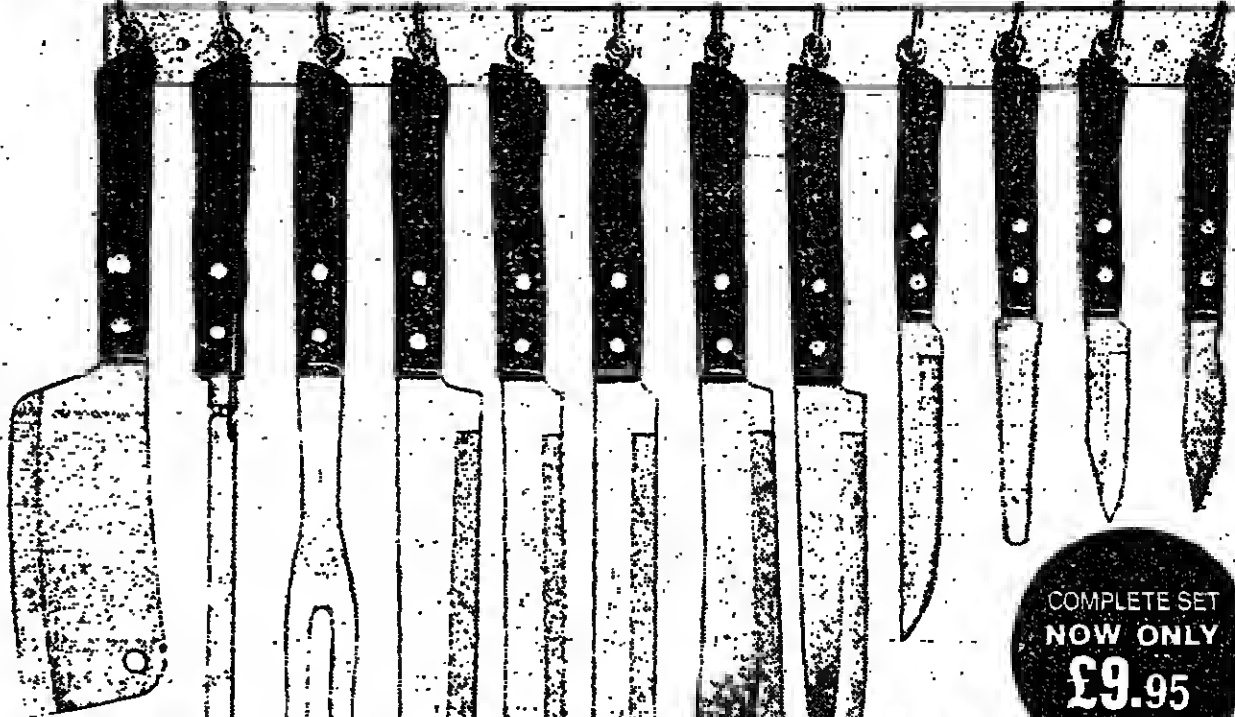
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